

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, February 6, 2014

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High-flyer opens a boutique in village

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Serious direction for popular comedian

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Musical youth

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Mortgage arrears team get 229 calls

A MORTGAGE arrears advice service received 229 calls to help families who feared they could lose their home in just six months.

Referrals for people in need of help because of the possibility of repossession were logged between April and September by the Dudley service. During the same period in 2012 there were 185 referrals logged.

In the 'vast majority of cases', the service has been able to offer advice and support to prevent the loss of homes.

It is a free service for anyone having difficulty keeping up monthly mortgage or secured loan payments.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing, said: "This is an excellent, free service which is available to anyone living within the Dudley borough who is worried about debt and losing their home."

"The pressures of modern living often lead to people getting into debt after and this initiative means that they have someone who they can turn to. The service is confidential and impartial, and is run in partnership between Dudley Council and the Dudley Citizens Advice Bureau."

Anyone who wants to use the free service can call 01384 816499 or visit their local Citizens' Advice Bureau.

More work on major route

MOTORISTS are being warned of more traffic problems on a major route as part of the second phase of repair work on leaking water pipes.

South Staffordshire Water has completed a two-month project underneath Birmingham New Road, between Wolverhampton and Dudley. But now repairs are needed to the road which will lead to two weekends of disruption. Between February 14 and 17 and 21 and 24, lane closures will be in place between Shaw Road and Ivyhouse Lane junctions.

TOWN IS FIFTH IN LAZY LEAGUE

DUDLEY'S council leader says a report which claimed the borough's residents were among the most inactive in the country showed the split of people taking exercise and those 'stuffing themselves watching the television'.

Some 37.6 per cent of the borough's population has been deemed not to do enough activity — making the area the fifth least active area in the country, according to the research by health group UK Active.

David Sparks said there was a 'massive' involvement in sport in the borough but there were also too many people eating too much and not exercising enough.

He said: "Dudley is no different to anywhere else. We have a constantly increasing number of gyms and a huge network of other sports facilities."

Jobs

"UK Active is obviously a credible organisation and their research shows that the whole of the UK needs to pay far more attention to diet and exercise."

"What is happening in Dudley I suppose is a paradox — you have an increasing number of people taking exercise and an increasing number who are stuffing themselves watching the television."

Ninder Johal, vice president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses across the area, said the issue could be down to the jobs people are doing.

More workers in areas

By Tim Spiers and Alex Homer

such as Dudley and Sandwell, which was second on the list, now find themselves in sedentary jobs in the service industry, he said.

Mr Johal added: "What you can't ignore is people's social behaviour and the types of jobs they do. People are working long hours sitting down, gyms are quite expensive for some and they might go home and sit down and watch television."

The report warned that a 'pandemic' of inactivity in poor areas of England was leading to premature deaths. Thirteen of the top 15 local authorities where people are the most inactive also sit in some of the most deprived parts of the country, said experts from the not-for-profit health group. Where inactivity levels are at their highest, early deaths also peak, the study found.

Manchester topped the lazy league, with 40 per cent of its residents deemed to be inactive. Sandwell was fractionally ahead of Salford, while Dudley was fifth on 37.6 per cent.

In the 15 most inactive local authorities, there is an average of 342 premature deaths per 100,000 people per year, compared with 242 in those where people exercise the most.

A weigh to go — so hurry up Orry



Patagonian sealion, Orry, tips the scales at a respectable 63-stone during his daily winter weigh-ins at Dudley Zoo

HE tips the scales at a whopping 63st and eats buckets of sprats, mackerel and herring a day to keep in top shape.

Patagonian sealion Orry also has to have daily weigh-ins ensure he stays fit and healthy during the winter months.

The 22-year-old heavyweight needs to bulk up during the colder weather to endure the icy water in the moat pools around 11th century Dudley Castle at the heart of the zoological gardens.

But his monster weight will only last until the weather warms up when it will fall to a more light 50st.

The zoo's head of media and communications, Jill Hitchman, said:

"Sealions have a thick layer of fat beneath their skin which acts as insulation during chilly periods, rather like a duvet, and at this time of year keepers weigh Orry each day to make sure he is the optimum weight."

Predators

"He receives an average of eight kilos of sprats a day, in addition to mackerel and herring, but will eat less when the weather warms up, when his weight will fall to a more sprightly 320kg, or 50 stone."

Patagonian sealions are found on the Chilean, Ecuador, Peruvian,

Uruguayan, Argentine and Southern Brazilian coasts. The males are much larger than females with a thick, maned neck and large head, giving them a lion-like appearance. Both sexes have upturned snouts and external ears.

In the wild, the sealions are large and fearsome predators, but are preyed upon themselves by killer whales, which go so far as to beach themselves in pursuit of a sea lion pup.

They are carnivores, feeding primarily on schooling fish, such as anchovies and hake. They will also feed on squid and octopus or on whatever food is seasonally available.

Office to be shut as services go to shop

A POST office in the Black Country is to close — and its facilities moved into a shop two doors down — under a 'major modernisation' programme announced by bosses.

The post office in Pensnett High Street will close on March 13. However, two post office serving counters will open a day later inside Costcutter, also in High Street.

Bosses say the move will benefit customers due to longer opening hours.

Confident

Post office services will be available from 6am to 10pm, Monday to Sunday. The current post office is open from 9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Saturday.

Adrian Wales, Post Office regional network manager for Central England, said: "We understand how important having a post office is to residents in Pensnett and we are confident that this new modern post office will meet the needs of the local community and secure services for the future."

He added: "The modernisation is part of a major investment programme to convert the Post Office network to new-style branches and this investment, the largest in the history of the Post Office, makes a commitment to no more branch closure programmes."

Tunnels to close again

DRIVERS are being urged to make alternative plans to use public transport as council bosses announced further closures of Birmingham's A38 tunnels.

The St Chad's and Queensway tunnels will be closed to traffic from 10pm on July 18 until 6am on September 1.

The work will take place following two weeks of overnight closures, from 10pm to 6am, and followed by up to four weeks of more overnight closures. City bosses say the work is essential.

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Couples can say I do and then BOGOF

IT may not sound romantic but BOGOF register office wedding deals could be a clincher for strapped couples tying the knot on a budget.

Dudley Register Office is trying out the quirky deal at its Grade I listed Priory Hall, where couples can say 'I do' and 'I do' again for half the price.

The venue is inviting brides and grooms to team up with other en-

gaged couples to purchase two ceremonies for the price of one.

It is the latest way for couples to save money on their big day and it could be worth up to £240 per couple, depending on which day of the week they pick.

Sunday ceremonies usually cost £480 while Saturdays are priced at £310, Fridays £210 and Mondays to Thursdays £160.

In recent years there has been a

growing number of brides buying second-hand dresses.

The Buy One Get One Free offer extends to wedding vows, so a young couple could go halves with parents wanting to reaffirm their commitment to each other.

Naming ceremonies — an alternative to christenings for children — and civil partnerships are included in the deal at the venue which hosts more than 1,000 ceremonies a year.

Penny Fulford, superintendent registrar at Priory Hall, said the offer would help couples save money.

She said: "This is the first time that we have tried a BOGOF deal, so we will see how popular it proves to be."

Mrs Fulford, a registrar for nearly 17 years, said besides helping couples, it was hoped the offer would boost bookings. Call 01384 815373.

£3m centre is hub for college partnership

A NEW multi-million college centre is ready to help the next generation of student achieve their university aspirations.

Bosses at Halesowen College have put the finishing touches to a £20 million transformation of their Whittingham Road campus over the past five years. New teaching buildings for animal studies students, science laboratories and IT facilities are among those which have transformed the site.

Funding to help with cancer care

CANCER nurses have been presented with scholarships by a Black Country MP.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin handed out the awards to the medical staff who are based at Russells Hall Hospital's Georgina Unit.

The nurses will receive the further training at the unit thanks to the backing of the Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund.

Specialist

The fund also raises cash to help pay for new specialist staff, equipment and respite breaks for patients and their families.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "All of the staff at Russells Hall's Georgina Unit do brilliant work and it's a huge honour to present them with these scholarships for further training."

He added: "The appeal fund continues to do great work in supporting the unit and I've been taken aback by the generosity of everyone involved."

The presentation took place at the Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund's annual general meeting on Friday.

Work on the £3m Block 11 has been completed. It is to be known as the University Centre and is ready to be previewed to potential students.

Halesowen College has a long standing partnership with the University of Worcester and Newman University to extend its offering of courses and options for students.

The college offers Foundation Degrees as well as a number of HNC and HND programmes including animal management, business, graphics web design and multimedia, health and social care, public services and sports studies.

It is an aim that students in the second year of study to embark on undergraduate units with partner universities to help prepare them for transition to higher education.

Halesowen College principal Keith Bate said: "The establishment of a University Centre at the college is included in the final phase of our £20m scheme to redevelop the Whittingham Campus."

"Collaborative approaches to learning with key partners are fundamental to the college's strategy in providing extensive opportunities for local people to extend their horizons through education."

"We are passionate to support students of all ages into University courses."

Awards joy for dentist



DUDLEY STEVE LEATH COPYRIGHT EXPRESS AND STAR 29/01/2014

DENTIST Edward Young prides himself on doing his best to make sure his patients have a winning smile.

And now he is grinning from ear to ear himself after winning his way through to the final of a national award, which will be judged in the same month that he is expecting the birth of his first child.

Dr Young, aged 33, who lives in Quarry Bank, has been treating patients at Amblecote Dental Care, in Amblecote Road,

Brierley Hill, for the last 10 years. He is a general dentist, with special interests in cosmetic dentistry and orthodontics.

He has entered the National Dental Aesthetic Dental Awards for the first time and has learned he is one of six shortlisted for the final in the 'patient choice' category for orthodontics.

Dr Young has been at Amblecote Dental Care since graduating as a dentist from Sheffield University.

Police in probe on shooting at driver

A GUN was fired during a 'targeted attack' on a man driving a car along a main road, police have revealed.

Officers closed off a section of Dudley Road, in Brierley Hill, as an investigation was launched.

And police confirmed there was evidence to suggest a firearm had been discharged.

The road at the scene of a shooting has reopened as police investigations continue.

The 34-year-old driver reported being attacked while driving his car at around 5am on Sunday, January 26. He was not injured.

Officers said they had been trawling CCTV and searching an area of Dudley Road.

Inspector Jim Munro, from West Midlands Police Criminal Investigation Department, said: "There is evidence to suggest that a firearm was discharged. At this stage officers believe this was a targeted attack."

Police are still urging witnesses with any information to come forward on the 101 number.

Inspector Munro said officers believed it was an isolated incident.

Lots of fun at half-term

A HOST of activities have been lined up for a Black Country kids' fun club during half-term.

The Juniors at Museums (JAM) club will run across Dudley from February 15 to 23. Broadfield House Glass Museum, the Red House Glass Cone and Dudley Museum and Art Gallery will host sessions.

Events include the chance to make a glass tile at the Glass Cone, while Broadfield House is running an interactive story trail. At Dudley Museum children can take part in a family crafts day inspired by Disney movie Frozen.

Dryer on fire

A HOME utility room has been left badly damaged following a tumble dryer fire.

Fire crews were called to the house in Arundel Road in Stourbridge. Crew Commander Andy Bennett said: "No-one was hurt but the room and a washing machine were badly damaged."

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NEWS

NEWS
in briefAuthor shares
tips on writing

BEST-SELLING author Miranda Dickinson has shared her writing top tips with college students. She visited Birmingham Metropolitan College's Stourbridge campus to offer advice on how to pursue a career as a writer.

Miranda, of Lower Gornal, has written five books, all appearing on the Sunday Times Best-Selling list, the most recent - Take a Look at Me Now - reaching number four. She has also been shortlisted twice for the Romantic Novelists' Association Awards.

Pamper night
means business

A CHARITY is promising plenty of glitz and glamour when it hosts a fundraising pamper evening next month.

The event in aid of Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind will take place on March 27. Businesses are offered the chance to showcase their wares on the night. Organiser Jo Field said: "We are planning an evening of glitz and glamour, fashion and fun."

The event will run from 6.30pm-9.30pm. See www.beacon4blind.co.uk for details.

Youth on song
for Barnardo's

THOUSANDS of young singers who took part in a huge choral event have raised almost £8,000 for charity.

Pupils at schools from across the Black Country joined others from across the Midlands in a special performance at the LG Arena in Birmingham.

Bucket collections for Barnardo's raised £7,954 during a four-night run.

New dog group
raised over £1k

THE newly-formed Haden Hill Dog Awareness Group has raised more than £1,000 for charity.

The group raised £1,032 with its first Dog Awareness Day in Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath, last year, which included a dog fun show, stalls and display teams. Members handed a cheque over to Hearing Dogs For Deaf People.

TV cop drama

A PERIOD crime drama set in the West Midlands returns to BBC1 next week. The new series of WPC 56 starts on Monday. Much of the filming took place at the Black Country Living Museum.

£167,000
funding to
boost high
streets

MORE than £160,000 is available in grants to boost struggling town centres, clean up high streets and tackle empty shops across Dudley.

Councillors say they want communities to take pride in their town centres across Dudley borough and instigate improvements.

Businesses and community groups can bid for a share of grants totalling £167,000 to breathe new life into ailing high streets.

Individuals or groups will be able to apply for grants to fund projects such as tidying up problem areas and schemes to encourage businesses.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss, Councillor Judy Foster, said the authority is working hard to bring improvements to town centres.

"We are inviting people who love their community to bid for pots of money to fund their own schemes and innovative projects which will help rejuvenate town and local centres."

Cash has been pooled including £100,000 from the High Street Innovation Fund handed to councils in the wake of a report by retail guru Mary Portas. There is also the £52,000 from the empty shops grant.

Man denies
sex charge

A 55-year-old man from Lye has appeared in court accused of dangerous driving and attempting to meet a 13-year-old girl for sex.

Pervez Akhtar appeared at Leamington Magistrates' Court. It is alleged that he drove at another man and broke his leg at Nuneaton on June 4. He is further accused of trying to meet a girl he contacted online with the intention of engaging in sexual activity with her at Worcester.

Akhtar indicated not guilty pleas to both charges and was unconditionally bailed to appear at Warwick Crown Court on May 23.

Cheers to Marilyn

A Black Country brewery's latest ale has been named in honour of movie star Marilyn Monroe.

Some Like it Blonde - a 4.5 per cent strength beer - went on sale in Holden's 20 pubs in the Black Country and surrounding area on Monday.

Homes proposed at nature reserve site

PLANS to breathe new life into the site of a former 19th century manor house in a Dudley nature reserve by creating new homes and a £300,000 warden's base are poised to be given the go-ahead.

The development for the land at Saltwells has been proposed by Selbourne Homes. It was left vacant after Saltwells House was knocked down three years ago.

Under the plans a single-storey warden's base which will be used by staff working in the nature reserve as well as visitors and schoolchildren will be built.

Five detached houses would also be constructed in a 'woodland style' to fit in with the surroundings.

Planning officers at Dudley Council have backed the scheme saying it will make a 'positive contribution' to the site and would not harm the nature reserve.

A report by case officer Vijay Kaul said: "The proposed development would not have an adverse effect on animal species, amenity of existing or future occupiers or highway safety."

Dudley Council has agreed to earmark

£120,000 from the reserves budget of the council's urban environment directorate for the new base.

Classrooms

Environment councillor Tracy Wood said: "The exciting proposal for the warden's base on the old Saltwells House site will give the nature reserve a facility that can be used by the whole community."

Gavin Warr, managing director of Hagley-based Selbourne Homes said the warden's base would also have classrooms for

schoolchildren learn about the woodlands and nature reserve.

Saltwells House had been ravaged by vandals and was attacked by arsonists on several occasions after it shut in 2001. The building, off Pedmore Road, opposite the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, had previously been used as a school and a nursing home.

Dudley Council disposed of the Saltwells House site in March 2010 to its Limited Liability Partnership company PSP Dudley. It was demolished soon after despite calls for it to be retained and renovated.

Watchdog concerns on
hospital parking demand

A PATIENTS' watchdog group has backed controversial plans to replace a walk-in centre with an urgent care centre at Russells Hall Hospital but has raised concerns about parking at the hospital.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group - CCG - intends to close the walk-in centre at Holly Hall Clinic, in Stourbridge Road, and move services to a new unit at the hospital.

The plan looks set to go ahead after Paul Maubach, chief officer at the CCG, told the council's health scrutiny committee that he was recommending it goes ahead following a consultation.

The new centre would work alongside the accident and emergency department and would be available 24 hours, seven days a week for patients to walk in or make appointments.

Improve

At the council meeting last week, councillors raised concerns over the plan and Councillor Bryan Cotterill said it was against the patients' wishes. But Healthwatch Dudley, a group representing patients, said the proposal would 'improve' the service.

Chairman Pam Bradbury said: "We feel the service will be improved by the proposed increased opening hours and appointment booking system but we do have a concern regarding the insufficient parking facilities at the hospital."

Report by Alex Ross

"We appreciate this issue needs to be balanced with improved access to a high quality clinical service. We will be listening carefully to patient voices and experiences to ensure the service specification for the new walk-in centre meets the needs of local people."

Dudley CCG has a £1.4 million contract with healthcare firm Primecare to run the centre. It was due to run out in April but has been extended to September while plans for the future are drawn up.

The group carried out an independent patient survey of people attending the accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital and at the walk-in centre. The CCG is now working on a more detailed plan to bring before councillors. The walk-in centre contract ends in September.

Officers will be sharing the results of the consultation on February 13 from 5.30pm until 7.30pm at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Boxers going toe-to-toe

A BIG crowd is expected for a fundraising boxing event at Brierley Hill where young fighters will go glove-to-glove to help their club.

Nearly all 300 tickets have sold out to see the bouts between members of Priory Park Boxing Club at The Copthorne Hotel in Merry Hill, Brierley Hill, on February 22. For tickets call 07528 545586 or email prioryparkpromotions@gmail.com or visit www.prioryparkboxing.co.uk



Vicki Hancox is pictured at her new shop, The Village Boutique, in Kinver High Street

Stylish
village
venture
for Vicki

SHE had a jet-setting job as a managing director flying around the world brokering deals with bosses from major high street names such as Marks & Spencer.

But entrepreneur Vicki Hancox has swapped her lifestyle to start up her own business, running The Village Boutique near Stourbridge. It is a far cry from her career flying out to Morocco, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong to seal contracts before arriving back for boardroom meetings in London.

Yet village life is proving fruitful for the 44-year-old who is now just as happy selecting unique items to stock her ornate high street store in Kinver.

"I'm excited by the new challenge. I've had some nice comments about the boutique already," she said. Vicki, who lives in Halesowen, worked her way up the career ladder at haberdashery firm Newey Goodman in Tipton.

She moved on its parent company Prym, rising to become one of its directors. Vicki managed accounts for major retailers such as Marks & Spencer and Agent Provocateur, eventually becoming UK managing director.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A COMMITTEE of MPs has criticised the Royal House-hold for spending money unwisely. So that's a stern memo to Queen Kettle from the House of Pots.

□□□□□□□□

IN FACT, is there a more wasteful institution in the world than the UK Parliament? You would think by now, with 70 per cent of our laws passed in Brussels and separate governments established in Scotland, Wales and Ulster, that the Commons could do its job with far fewer MPs. Yet 650 fat bottoms are still crammed on to those leather benches with a further 800 – an all-time record – in the House of Lords. Never in the field of human politics have so many done so little and charged so much.

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A DRIVER-v-cyclist video went viral this week. It shows a white Audi edging into a cycle-only box in London. A cyclist remonstrates with the driver. The Audi sets off, the cyclist in hot, indignant pursuit. At the next lights, the cyclist puts his angry face against the driver's window and rages: "You ****ing p****!" At this point someone gets out of the Audi and thumps the cyclist. Judging from the comments to the video, how you react to this incident depends entirely on your mode of transport. Cyclists see it as a shocking assault on one of their clan. Drivers see an obscenity-yelling cyclist getting his comeuppance. (Seriously, if you stick your face a few inches from a stranger's face and call him a "****ing p****!" what do you expect?) A visitor from Mars would study the scene, with bikes, cars and lorries whizzing everywhere and wonder why in the name of sanity they are all sharing the same roads.

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ED Balls's plan for a 50p rate appeals to the politics of envy, that deep-seated British belief that the "rich" (which usually means those earning £10,000-a-year more than us) should be made to suffer for their success. Yet surely the ocean-cruise industry is a more effective cure for our envy than the tax system. This week, another 300 well-heeled passengers have been stricken with sickness and diarrhoea in the Caribbean. Own up. Is there any greater joy than hearing that your rich friends, having boasted for months about their forthcoming cruise, have just spent £10,000 and six days sitting on the loo?

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HOW many Scots, hearing this week that Scotland could keep the pound only if it surrendered a degree of sovereignty, were wondering what this arrangement might be called. How about The United Kingdom?

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SO FAREWELL, Pete Seeger, the American folk singer who challenged the system and used music as his weapon in the struggle. Sadly, he also spawned a new breed of rebels without a chord. In the Sixties and Seventies every party attracted at least one sad-looking teenager turning up in a US combat jacket inscribed "Che" with a CND badge, Palestinian scarf and a guitar. This unhappy breed would croon We Shall Overcome when everyone knew they were middle-class kids and the only thing they needed to overcome was acne.

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LABOUR is pressing for the law to be changed to ban people smoking in cars containing children. They were in power for 13 years. Why didn't they do it then?

□□□□□□□□

OUR changing language. A BBC announcer told us that last night's series Britain's Great War would explain "how the Great War impacted Britain." Coming up, the First World War, impact by impact. Huns impact Belgium. Old Contemptibles impact Huns. Brits impact Loos. Huns impact Verdun. Brits impact Somme, Ypres and Passchendaele. Bolsheviks impact Tsar. Huns impact entire Western Front. Brits impact Hindenburg Line. Armistice impacts Huns. Spanish Flu impacts everybody. And the winner is – American grammar.

Last call for hero nominations

AN appeal has been made for people to nominate unsung community heroes for an award.

Dudley Council is running the Mayor's Civic Awards to reward people who work for the good of their communities. The awards also tie into the council's Love Your Community Campaign.

Mayor Councillor Alan Finch is inviting people to nominate people, groups, organisations and busi-

nesses in their community who deserve special recognition. He said: "There are many people across the borough who go above and beyond but without the Mayor's Civic Awards we have no way of knowing about them or celebrating what they do."

There are six categories backed by businesses and a seventh trophy, the Mayor's Award, will be decided by a public vote. Councillor Finch

will choose four people or groups he feels have stood out to him on his civic engagements so far in his Mayoral year. The public will then have the chance to vote online for the winner. Nominations cannot be put forward for this particular award. A judging panel will decide the other categories.

The winners and runners-up will be presented with a trophy and a certificate by the Mayor of Dudley

at a civic ceremony in April. People can nominate online at www.dudley.gov.uk/civicawards or can pick up a form from libraries and leisure centres. They can call 01384 817449 for a form.

Completed forms should be sent to Mayor's Civic Awards nominations, communications and public affairs, Dudley Council, FREEPOST MID22308, Dudley, DY1 1BR by February 17.

Landlords are fined on gas safety failure

TWO brothers have been fined for ignoring gas safety regulations while letting out a house.

Philip Hale, aged 52, of Gayfield Avenue in Brierley Hill, and Roger Hale, 50, of Karen Way, Brierley Hill, both pleaded guilty to failing to get gas appliances at their property in Himley Street in Dudley safety checked.

Dudley Magistrates' Court heard how the pair had rented the house for seven years - but had not, from 2006 until last April, had the appliances checked under the register, which is a legal requirement for landlords.

Couple Julian and Mandi Wilson rented the property for five years. They called out the National Grid after smelling gas and were told to no longer use two gas fires in the house. They also suffered headaches and sickness but Ms Pam Folsom, prosecuting for the Health and Safety Executive, said: "There was no direct evidence of both being as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning."

A gas engineer described the property's boiler fitting as a "Heath Robinson" job. Mr Nicholas Mills, defending the brothers, said they had not been aware how often a gas safety certificate was required.

Mr Michael Whitehouse, chairman of the bench, fined Philip Hale £1,000 and Roger Hale was fined

by Alex Ross

£1,500. Both were ordered to pay £464.10 each court costs. Philip Hale was also ordered to pay £100 victim surcharge. Roger Hale will pay £120 victim surcharge.

Mr Whitehouse said: "I hope this makes it clear that this regulation is important for landlords and is there to be followed. Something far more serious could have happened. You could be standing here today with a much more serious offence."

After the hearing, Ms Folsom said: "Philip and Roger Hale potentially put lives and property in danger by ignoring their responsibilities as landlords of this property. It is essential landlords have gas appliances inspected annually. Well-maintained appliances reduce the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning and dangerous gas leaks."

Chief executive of Gas Safe Register, Russell Kramer, said: "It is important that landlords know their duties and tenants know their rights."

Group clean up Stour

VOLUNTEERS braved wind and rain to collect 40 bags of rubbish during a clean-up along the banks of the River Stour.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris was among those who took part in the event in Halesowen.

It was organised by environmental group Transition Stourbridge. The group is staging a River Stour exhibition in Halesowen Library during February. On February 27 at 7.30pm it will screen a film at the United Reform Church, Halesowen, about the devastating effect plastic has on the oceans.

Flaming great takeaways



Chef Bishnu Banjade cooks up a treat at a new takeaway food shop in Stourbridge High Street

A HEALTH expert is hoping to change the face of takeaways by serving up some flaming great food.

Taste Stourbridge, a new healthy takeaway bar has opened its doors in the town and is serving up noodle and rice-based dishes – all made in front of the waiting customer. It first opened seven weeks ago and owner Catherine Growcott says it is already becoming a success.

"We're trying to entice people in who may usually go for chips and encourage them to try out healthier alternatives – which I'm sure they will find are even nicer," she said.

"People say they are loving it. I think they like the fact they can make their own dishes up and then see them being cooked."

The takeaway was launched by Mrs Growcott on the back of a charity she set up last year.

MP's cat idea for infested House

THE corridors of power have plenty of dark corners for scuttling creatures but MPs would rather not see them when they are having their tea.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is now offering to get a pair of cats for the House of Commons after he spotted a mouse in the tea room. The Labour MP went into the tea room for a cup and a chat with colleagues when he spotted the furry vermin scurrying across the floor.

He said: "Other MPs have seen mice as well. It's an old building so it's to be expected but from what others tell me, the place is full of them. I've nothing against mice, I'd just rather not have them anywhere near me."

Repair work to the Palace of Westminster is said to need £2.3 billion. Much of the Grade-I listed building dates back to the 1840s and 1850s.

Mr Austin said: "It doesn't need billions spending to deal with the rodent problem. All we need is to get a couple of cats. I'd be quite happy to see if there are some in a cats sanctuary in the Black Country that need a new home. We could call them Dudley and Gornal."

Music with a message

A CONCERT launched last year to teach children about road safety has returned for a second year by popular demand.

Click on to Safety, a concert created by DBS Law and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, was seen by around 2,000 children during its first run. Featuring catchy tunes, the purpose of the show is to demonstrate safe road use in a fun and memorable way. Concerts take place at CBSO Centre from February 12 to 14. Schools places are limited and can be booked through Paul Dasilva on 0121 675 6516.

Healthy eating

EXPERT nutritionists at Dudley Tesco store are running free health tours around the store to help the people make healthy food choices. Every Tuesday at 10.30am and Thursday at 6pm, until February 27, nutritionists will be helping by offering tips.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

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Marque extends its stay at Merry Hill

MOTOR company MG is to have a mini dealership within the Merry Hill shopping centre throughout this year.

The historic marque is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2014 and will have its new MG3 and the MG6 on show. It follows a successful two-month pre-Christmas run.

The four-car display will feature the GT fastback and Magnette sports saloon variants of the cars.

Potential buyers will also be able to talk to fully trained MG sales executives from the Longbridge factory, where they are assembled.

MG head of sales Sam Burton said: "The partnership with Westfield Merry Hill provides a fantastic opportunity for two iconic Midlands brands to continue to work together following the great success we enjoyed at the centre at the end of 2013."

Westfield director of operations Bill Giouroukos said: "Westfield is delighted that such an iconic UK brand has chosen to partner with Westfield at our Merry Hill centre to launch a new and dynamic sales platform for their exciting range of cars. MG is owned by Chinese company SAIC Motor."

Meeting on health plan

RESIDENTS can give their feedback over controversial proposals to shut a walk-in health centre.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group is inviting people to discuss and hear feedback after more than 3,000 took part in the consultation over closing the health centre, in Holly Hall, and changing out of hours services.

The public healthcare forum meeting takes place between 5.30pm until 7.30pm on February 13. It takes place at Brierley Hill Civic Hall, in Bank Street. To book a place call Helen Ashford on 01384 321719.

He will be vicar

A BEEF-KEEPING vicar has moved from Bradford to the Black Country. Rev Jonathan Nicholas and wife Sian have moved, with their hive of bees, to Smethwick. He is associate vicar of Oldbury, Langley and Loundonbury with responsibility for Christ Church, Oldbury.

Green Man arch will welcome shoppers



A sketch of how the arch will look

A FEATURE archway to welcome visitors as part of the £6.7m redevelopment of a historic market place has been given the go ahead by councillors in Dudley.

The Green Man archway will be created at a passageway off Castle Street in Dudley town centre. It will feature a Green Man mask and include the words 'Green Man Entry'.

The passageway, which dates back to medieval times, now links the town centre to Dudley College's Evolve campus. It is believed to have originally led to an ale house.

It comes after work got under way on the first phase of the regeneration project,

which will cover Castle Street from the Earl of Dudley statue to the junction of New Street. This includes the laying of new stonework in Castle Street, which will also be incorporated in the market place later in the development, and work will be completed at the end of May.

Toilets

Contractors will then move onto phase two, which is the market place itself. The whole project is expected to be complete by early 2015.

The scheme to revamp the market place includes the relocation of the public toilets

to allow the repositioning of the Duncan Edwards statue.

The historic fountain will also be fully restored and the Earl of Dudley statue will be reset within a raised lawn.

New public toilets will be created in a shop unit in 256 Castle Street before the current public toilet block is demolished to open up the full view of the town's market place. The area is set to play host to a total of 74 stalls.

Council chiefs have hailed the scheme with regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster saying it was an "exciting time for Dudley town centre."

Council defers decision on crossing for students

A DECISION on plans to create a new pedestrian crossing for hundreds of students at a newly built Dudley College campus have been on hold by councillors.

Residents condemned the scheme for potentially creating traffic chaos on The Broadway, near the college's new £18 million Evolve site.

They told councillors at last week's Dudley Council planning meeting that traffic

Forum is to hand out a total £15k grant help

GRANTS totalling more than £15,000 have been made to groups in the Halesowen area from a local community forum.

Dudley Council's Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum has given the cash to five organisations.

Halas Homes gets £5,000 towards an extension to a building to provide more floor space for training.

'Ups and Downs' has received £4,595 for play equipment and towards the cost of trips for a group providing support to families with children who have Downs Syndrome. Halesowen Age Concern won £2,500 for a new marquee and fund-raising events.

Another £2,074 has gone to Halesowen in Bloom towards the cost of maintaining planters.

And Fast Aid - volunteers who support West Midlands Ambulance Service - got £1,000 towards a total grant of £10,000 from all community forums in the area for a vehicle to help with 999 calls.

ing meeting that traffic jams were already a problem at junction with Castle Hill. Two sets of traffic lights are positioned at the Castle Hill junction and further down at Ednam Road near the headquarters for the White House Cancer Support.

Committee member Councillor Tim Wright said he was surprised there was a need for a further crossing when most students already used the Ednam Road lights to cross the busy road.

College officials say up to 800 students on a peak day can use the Evolve campus and will be crossing the road to access the main Broadway campus. It is claimed an extra crossing needed to improve safety on the route which is one of the busiest in and out of the town centre.

Councillors decided more information was needed on whether there had been an accident on the stretch of road involving pedestrians.

Resident Linda Ashman, of The Broadway, said: "We have had a temporary bus stop down here recently and that has caused problems so we already know a crossing would cause more." Committee member Councillor Tim Wright said: "I cannot see the need to have another crossing along here."

Committee chairman Councillor Qadar Zada decided that the plans needed to come back before a future meeting.

Canal project receives £1m from Europe



An artist's impression of Dudley Canal Trust's planned £3m visitor centre, to be called The Portal

BOSSES at Dudley Canal Trust are celebrating securing around £1 million of European funding to kickstart work on a new visitor and heritage centre.

Work will get under way by summer at the trust, which manages the Dudley canal tunnels and limestone mines, in a bid to attract thousands of visitors each year. The cash grant has been awarded from the European Regional Development Fund to help finance the building of the £3m centre to be known as the Portal.

The project has already received a £989,200 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund with further support from the J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust, Wolfson Foundation, Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Limited and the Dudley Canal Trust.

Cash will be ploughed into building the centre which will give visitors information about the history and importance of the waterways and mines. A new canal bridge will also be built to connect the Portal and towpaths with the neighbouring Black Coun-

try Living Museum. The scheme was due to be built in phases but now the full building scheme can get under way thanks to the European cash pot, managed by the Government.

Chairman of Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Ltd, Jeff Luesley, said the grant was 'fantastic news' to herald the start of the project.

"It means we now have funding in place to build both phases of the development in one go," he said. "If all goes to plan we hope to start building this summer."

NEWS in brief

Writer is delving into town's past

'VERY' old Stourbridge will come under the microscope in a ground breaking talk at a historical group meeting.

Roy Peacock, a former president of Stourbridge Historical Society, has been delving into the town's past from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages. Mr Peacock, who used to lecture at King Edward VI Sixth Form College, is soon to publish a book on the town. The meeting will be held at the Amblecote Room in Stourbridge Town Hall on February 20 at 7.30pm.

Cinema is sold again in £7m deal

THE Odeon multiplex cinema at the Merry Hill shopping centre in Brierley Hill has changed hands for the second time in three months. Property investor LondonMetric Property has sold the cinema for £7.7 million to clients of Aberdeen Asset Management.

The 10 screen, 40,200 sq ft cinema remains let to Odeon Cinemas for a remaining term of 24 years with no breaks. The building was one of 10 Odeons bought by LondonMetric in 2013 for £80.6m.

Wives hearing variety of talks

HAGLEY Wives and Women's Fellowship will hear from Sandy Cale about 'The Great Escape of Charles II after the Battle of Worcester' on February 11. On February 25 Nic Yates will talk about being an Olympic torch bearer and, on March 11, Angela Hugman will speak on life as a physiotherapist. More information from Toni Allison on 01562 884079.

Only here for the beards and beer

THE winners of a beard of the year contest run by a Black Country brewery will be announced on March 1. Upper Gornal-based Fownes Brewing Company is holding a presentation at The Wheat-sheaf pub in Birmingham Road, Walsall. The brewery at the rear of the Jolly Crispin pub launched the competition a year ago.

Brewery festival

A NEW brewery is to hold a spring beer festival. Green Duck Brewery in Stourbridge will host the event at its Badelynge Bar in Rufford Road from March 27 to 29. Beers from 11 breweries will be sold.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

MEANWHILE, Manchester United star Ashley Young has been handed a six-month driving ban. Sorry, I mean a driving ban. Whatever was I thinking of?

I'll leave it to others to comment on the rights and wrongs of railway union leader Bob Crow for masterminding a tube strike while sunning himself in Brazil while wearing a rather dubious pair of Bermuda shorts.

What I will observe though is that a few years ago Bob was among the speakers at a day to mark the 100th anniversary of the Cradley chainmakers' strike. In the early 20th century, the mainly female workers of the Black Country chain industry lived in abject poverty, working back-breaking hours in squalid conditions for a pittance of pay, and it fell to Mary MacArthur, the daughter of a wealthy Scottish draper, to take on their oppressive bosses.

Aside from the fact that Bob turned what should have been a fascinating celebration of Black Country history into a bellicose political rally, he also throughout the duration of his long-winded speech, repeatedly referred to his heroine as 'Mary McCarthy'.

Considering he was such a big admirer, you might have thought he would have least got her name right.

A SIX-year-old boy has been suspended from school for taking a packet of Mini Cheddars in his lunch box. Riley Pearson's parents have now been summoned to the headmaster's study after the youngster was banned for not having a 'healthy and balanced' packed lunch.

Excuse me? Since when did a headmaster's remit extend to policing our dietary habits? If it were up to me, I would be telling him to ditch the Mini Cheddars and to tuck into some good old pork scratchings like a proper Black Country mon, but each to their own, live and let live and all that. This really does take the biscuit.

BRITAIN'S most tattooed man is not a happy bunny after being refused a new passport having changed his name by deed poll. It seems officials did not consider 'King of Ink Land King Body Art The Extreme Ink-It' to be a proper name, and suggested that he should continue calling himself Matthew Whelan instead. Apparently, Body - as he is known to his friends - has spent £30,000 on making himself look about as ridiculous as is humanly possible. His face is now entirely covered with a green psychedelic pattern, apart from two small holes for his eyes. And he has a couple of clumps of hair on his head, which look like a pair of freshly grown spring onions.

Mr Art says he needs a passport as it is intention to work overseas. As what? A scarecrow?



Woolworths in High Street, Bilston, now an Argos



Poundland has replaced Walsall's Woolworths store



Site of the old Woolworths in Dudley, now Plaza Mall

Woolies filled but never replaced

How have the stores fared since they closed five years ago? **WILL ACKERMANN** has been finding out

IT WAS the store everybody knew and loved, a British institution dating back 100 years.

In its heyday, Woolworths was as much a feature of the UK high street as the pavements and lamp-posts themselves.

But it has now been five years since that fateful day when the nation's favourite retailer went bust and had to close its 807 stores, with the loss of more than 30,000 jobs. The news was mourned by shoppers far and wide, while retail analysts warned it was a sign of worse to come as consumers began tightening their purse strings.

Unfortunately, they were proved right as other high-street giants have fallen victim to the recession.

But now that the dust has settled since Woolworths entered administration in 2009, what has become of all its empty units? Sadly, across the country more than 100 of them remain vacant and a further 68 have been demolished.

Others, however, have become home to new shops, many of them bargain stores - showing how shoppers these days want to spend a penny, rather than a pound. Low price bargains are their unique selling points.

Budget supermarket Iceland has occupied the highest number of former Woolies premises nationally, with 59. Close behind with 57 is Willenhall-based Poundland, while in at third is 99p Stores, which has 47. Fourth is B&M Bargains, with 43.

But Will Roberts, of the British Retail Consortium, said stores catering for those with more expensive tastes are also sprouting up. He said: "Although a number of vacant stores have been taken over by discount traders in recent years, we



Discount UK Home Store has taken over the old Woolworths in Wolverhampton

are also seeing high end stores such as Hotel Chocolat opening up new premises." The BRC's latest figures from October show 13 per cent of commercial properties remain vacant in town and city centres in the West Midlands and Staffordshire.

However, many of the stores once adorned with Woolies' iconic red and white signs have been snapped up by other occupants.

Before appointing administrators, the company had outlets in Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Bilston, Walsall, Bloxwich, Blackheath, Bearwood,

Wednesbury, Dudley, Halesowen, Brierley Hill, Kidderminster, Stafford, Lichfield and Cannock.

Of those 15 premises, two are occupied by discount grocery and frozen food retailer Bargain Foods; two are run by rent-to-own retailer BrightHouse, where customers can bag anything from a television set to a three-piece suite in weekly payments; two are Poundlands; with the remaining home to Discount UK, Argos, Heron Frozen Foods, Tesco, a Plaza Mall, a YMCA charity shop, Sports Direct and B&M Bargains.

The final Woolies staff barely had

time to pack up their belongings and leave the door, before some units were re-occupied, with others taking longer to attract new owners. Bosses at the Mander Centre, Wolverhampton struggled to fill the vacant unit left by Woolworths, and for three years it sat empty.

The centre itself was built in the 1960s, but Woolworths had already been trading long before it opened. The store became one of the biggest Woolworths branches in the West Midlands.

When it closed its doors, up to 40 workers lost their jobs. There was a glimmer of hope when businessman Tony Swannie, who runs the Aldridge based Plaza Malls, suggested he might open another Plaza Mall in the old store, but the deal fell through.

It was only in October 2012 that budget chain Discount UK stepped in to bring the shop back to life. The store, which sells items priced from 28p to £25, created 40 jobs when it took over the vacant unit.

It did not take quite as long for those in Wednesfield and Bilston to be filled. In September 2009, the unit in Bilston was taken over by catalogue shop Argos which had been relocated from 55-57 Church Street. Whereas in Wednesfield the discount grocery and frozen foods shop Bargain Foods took over the High Street unit.

In contrast to Wolverhampton, the high street locations of many of the Woolworths stores in Sandwell were quickly pounced upon. The first was in Blackheath, where Heron Frozen Foods transformed the High Street venue in May 2009.

In Bearwood, Tesco created 12 jobs when it opened an Express store in the former Woolworths in September 2009. In June of that year, Caversham Finance, which runs the rent-to-buy store BrightHouse, took over the Wednesbury's empty Woolworths shop on Market Place.

The Shop Direct Group bought the Woolworths and Ladybird brands, securing their futures online, but the high street will never look the same again.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

CONTROVERSIAL plans were revealed to convert a disused church in Wolverhampton into part of a giant supermarket.

Sainsbury's said the scheme for St George's Church would create 200 new jobs.

THE halfpenny coin was to be discontinued, Chancellor Nigel Lawson announced. Traders in the West Midlands showed little regret at its passing.

ENGINEERING workers leader Terry Duffy called for a 26-hour working week during a debate organised by Tettenhall Rotary Club. But he said it would do nothing to stop unemployment soaring to five or six million by the end of the 1980s.

1994

WOLVERHAMPTON Labour MP Dennis Turner called on all eight directors of the company which made Banks's beer to resign after they accepted huge pay increases. Mr Turner attacked David Thompson, managing director of Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, for accepting a £912 pay rise at a time when the Government had been urging executives to keep a lid on their earnings.

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers proved the romance of the FA Cup was alive and well by knocking Preston North End out of the competition with a 1-0 win at Aggborough, securing a place in the Fifth Round.

2004

THE audience of the US Superbowl stared in disbelief as Justin Timberlake 'accidentally' tore Janet Jackson's dress during the half-time entertainment, exposing her breast. Jackson later admitted that the stunt had been planned in advanced, and apologised if she had offended anybody.

THE 500th free burglar alarm was installed in a crime-plagued area of Wolverhampton. Extra locks were also fitted to homes in All Saints, Blakenhall and Parkfields.

FORMER Wolves captain Geoff Thomas was said to be recovering well in hospital after receiving a bone marrow transplant with his nurse sister Kay Hill. The player, who lived in Bromsgrove, had been diagnosed with leukaemia the previous year and the operation was his only chance of a complete cure.

WOLVES manager Dave Jones was said to be furious after his son sold Kenny Miller's shirt from the victory over Manchester United to a dealer over the internet. He believed it was going to a charity but the shirt was sold on eBay for £6,600.

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LETTERS

Slimmer and more effective government

THE West Midlands is being denied a say about its future; it is excluded from the debate about the future of Scotland and its implications for the rest of the UK. It is also excluded from any debate about the future of local government, some of which is facing bankruptcy and massive cuts in services.

Whatever the outcome of the Scottish referendum, Scotland and Wales will get more powers which will have implications for the future of Westminster and subnational Government in England.

Sub national Government in England is weak. It is a complex jigsaw of

largely anonymous local councils and unelected quangos. Local government is struggling to survive, quangos are controlled from Westminster and have very limited, if any, credibility or capacity to really influence public policy and the way private monopolies — including the energy companies control our lives.

Our local authorities are either too small to deal effectively with national and regional challenges or too large to connect with the local.

Why in the West Midlands with a population of 5 million — the same as Scotland — do we have four police

forces compared with one in Scotland? Why do we have nearly 60 MPs, thousands of councillors and members of quangos all paid by the tax payer? Major surgery is needed.

This has to include a system of regional and local government which is slimmer and far more effective. This has to be balanced by a significant downsizing and refocusing at Westminster on UK business with fairer voting for all levels of Government. We don't need more politicians but better government.

G MORRAN
Dudley

Tendency to forget repair bills

READING the article about the Trafalgar Court flats has brought me to comment on the ongoing maintenance of private property. With the fall in interest rates more people have been encouraged to enter the buy-to-let market but what happens as these properties need work and money spent on them? Private landlords may not have saved money to keep their properties in good order, or they may be faced with having to spend on their own dwelling and have to choose which property gets the money. Meanwhile the tenant is still paying the full rent on what could be a sub-standard home.

I also think we could have a time bomb with older people owning their own home but not having an income for the necessary repairs. It is great that home ownership has become possible for working class people but it comes with a big responsibility.

R WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Now get rid of all the useless windmills

REGARDING the letter from R Taberner, I do not think you will find that extreme weather events are more frequent. The out of a job if they couldn't produce any evidence, however far-fetched.

I gather the Arctic icecap is rather substantial and it looks as though the Antarctic midsummer is still cold enough to leave ship loads of tourists trapped in ice for days.

The so-called problem is blamed on carbon dioxide but they don't tell us that this gas which is vital for all life on earth. As 'global warming' has now been swept under the carpet to join 'acid rain' and the 'ozone layer', let us hope 'climate change' is soon to join them in the dustbin of history.

I agree that we must rethink energy policies. First of all, abandon those useless windmills. Then ignore the EU directives to close perfectly operational conventional power stations and get new nuclear power stations built soon, preferably by British firms. Or else the lights will go out!

A WILKINS
Buttermere Close
Brierley Hill

Chaos at hospital's car park

REGARDING the article in your paper, about the closure of the Holly Hall walk-in clinic, Mr Paul Maubach and the Dudley health bosses, need to start visiting Russells Hall regularly.

My sister has been an in-patient for the last nine weeks, myself and all family members have been visiting twice every day. Afternoon visiting you cannot get a parking space, Monday to Friday it can't cope, now with the clinics and visiting, how do they expect it to add more to this, by closing the walk-in clinic?

You know the old saying, if it's not broke don't mend it, and the walk-in clinic is doing a splendid service.

The first seven weeks of my sister's stay there was only one barrier working on the access side to the car park. Nothing to do with the hospital but the charges you have to pay you would think this could be repaired quicker. It caused chaos.

V CARTWRIGHT
Dudley

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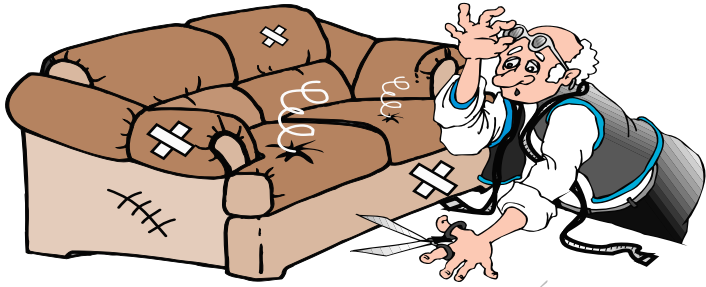


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NEWS

800 trees will be felled to restore beauty spot

HUNDREDS of trees are being felled as part of a major project to restore rare heathland at a National Trust beauty spot which is very popular with families.

The work is being carried out at Kinver Edge to restore the area to lowland heath to allow rare species to survive and flourish.

Around 800 trees will be felled as part of the 10-year management plan of the site. Among them are 600 Scots Pines, which are not indigenous to the West Midlands.

Officials say they were planted in the 1960s, by previous owners, as a plantation to be harvested but they never were. They said this had caused them to become overgrown.

Breeding

The National Trust is under obligation to Natural England to restore the land to its natural habitat, which bosses say will hopefully provide a rich breeding ground for increasingly endangered species.

Alex Morley, countryside manager at Kinver Edge, said: "Many visitors assume that the woodland has been here for hundreds of years, but it actually dates back less than a century."

"We've been working with Natural England for a number of years to conserve this important area and the current tree felling project is all part of the land management plan."

"We'll only fell trees from October to March so as not to disturb the bird population and any areas of biological importance or landscape value will be left untouched."

The heathland, which requires human intervention, develops over decades of grazing, prevents the area reverting back to woodland.

It is believed that the heathland at



Kinver Edge – area is still a popular spot for family days out

Kinver Edge dates back as far as the site's Iron Age hill fort.

Trees which are of biological importance or are native species will be retained.

Bosses said they would be protecting the site's archaeological features while the work is carried out this month and next month.

Over the centuries, areas of heathland like that at Kinver Edge would have provided grazing opportunities for cattle, materials for crafts such as broom-making, fuel, and was an important source of nectar for the beekeepers.

It is now a popular spot for family days out.

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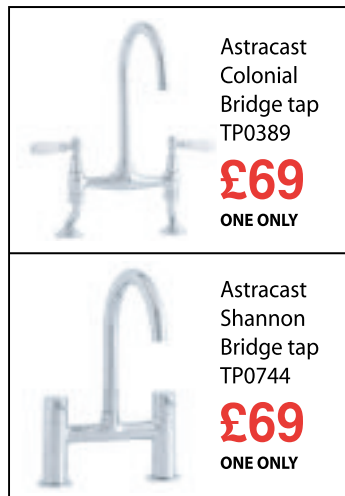
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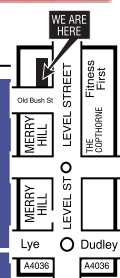
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NEWS

Wrangle as rabbits hop off

THEY cared for, fed and even named rabbits Fudge and Freckles but pupils are now hopping mad after the two pets were taken out of their classroom to live at their teacher's home.

Children have written a letter to their headteacher, made posters and even held placard-waving marches chanting the animals names around the playground in protest at their removal.

Parents of the children at Peters Hill Primary School in Brierley Hill have also

criticised the school, which announced the exclusion of the rabbits to pupils in the Year 5 class.

Headteacher Dr Neil Hopkin said the rabbits, which were delivered as a Christmas present to the class, were judged to be 'too big' for the classroom and were now being cared for at a teacher's home.

The rabbits were adopted from Brambles Rabbit Rescue and it is understood they were removed ahead of the school's Ofsted inspection.

Business site gets 150 new family homes

WORK is under way on a multi-million pound development of 150 homes on a business park in Stourbridge.

The Doulton Brook scheme, which is expected to be completed in around three years, is being built on land at Sunrise Business Park in Wollaston.

There will be a mix of two, three and four-bedroom properties. Demolition of former factory buildings on the site has taken place with work beginning on the first of the new homes.

Developer Taylor Wimpey has pledged to invest in transport improvements and community facilities as part of the scheme.

Vines brewing up a new social enterprise



Toasting the success of the new coffee shop

TRAINEES are serving up tasty treats for hungry shoppers after the ribbon was officially cut on a new coffee shop.

The Vines, in Stourbridge High Street, has been set up by charities Vine Social Enterprises and Living Springs and staffed by trainees to help them learn new skills for the world of work.

The shop has been trading since October following a £70,000 refurbishment but has just been officially opened by Dudley's Mayor Councillor Alan Finch.

Five trainees work at the shop providing catering and serving customers. They will be overseen by a small management team from Vine Social Enterprises.

Among those attending the opening ceremony were Dudley North MP Ian Austin and chief executive of Black Country Chamber of Commerce Margaret Corneby.

The event was also attended by people helped by the charities.

There were speeches before the ribbon was officially cut.

History to talk about

A TALK delving into the developments of the carpet industry is among a varied programme by a historical society this spring.

Members of Wordsley History Society have announced details of their latest series of events. On February 13 Melvyn Thompson will host a talk entitled Woven in Kidderminster looking at the history of the carpet industry in Kidderminster. Keith Cattell will give an illustrated talk looking at the smaller islands around Britain on March 13.

Thief stole shop's Heroes charity tin

A THIEF buying food from a chip shop swiped a collection box set up to raise cash for injured soldiers.

Paul Hopper took the Help for Heroes tin from the counter at the Causeway Fish Bar, Oldbury, on December 13. The box contained between £50 and £100 which had been donated by customers.

Sandwell Magistrates Court heard CCTV was used to identify Hopper, 46, of Victoria Road, Cradley Heath, and he was arrested by officers. Hopper, who is currently claiming benefits, pleaded guilty to a count of theft during the hearing.

He was fined £110 and ordered to pay compensation of £75 which will be forwarded to the charity. Hopper will also pay £85 court costs and the £20 victim surcharge.

Mr Milo Turner, defending, said: "He has pleaded guilty at the first opportunity. Last year he suffered a severe injury and lost the sight in one eye."

Workers has been removing invasive plants including Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed on the site. They are also opening up the culverted section of the River Stour, which flows through the development, and creating new footpaths to Stourbridge Canal.

Two bus stops will be created outside the development while work to improve children's play facilities in the area will also take place.

Under the plans, a piece of public art will be installed within Doulton Brook.

While Taylor Wimpey will also provide each new household with a £200 voucher to be used towards the purchase of a bicycle.

Elaine Taylor, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "We are delighted to confirm our investment in the local area which will help to improve public facilities and infrastructure for the benefit of the whole community, ensuring that this sustainable new homes development will both complement and enhance the local area."

The site was previously home to Sunrise Medical Ltd, which relocated to Thorns Road, Brierley Hill. Caparo Aluminium Technologies was also formerly based at the site. It moved to premises in Bridgnorth.

Man is rescued

A MAN was rescued after gas leaked from a cooker in his seventh floor flat in Stourbridge. Fire crews smashed their way into the flat in Baylie Court, Green Street, and pulled the man from his bed. He was treated by paramedics.



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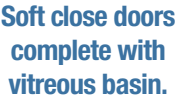
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CLUB NEWS

Unexpected tales come to rescue

BLACKHEATH M TWG

THE guild meeting on Wednesday January 22 was opened by the club's chairman Doreen Armstrong at 10.30am.

Doreen welcomed members and visitors, a good turnout despite the cold weather.

Monthly reports were given by treasurer Beryl Hartley and Press officer Iris Harris. Everyone was wished a Happy New Year and all agreed what a good time was had at the Christmas party.

Usually at the end of business our chairman introduces the speaker for the day, but the one lined up had unfortunately retired and was no longer available.

In true guild spirit, the ladies did not despair and a solution was found. The problem was solved by Beryl, who entertained everyone with a sample of 'Tales of the Unexpected' - an old television series.

She told four stories of strange and unusual happenings in her lifetime which were quite enthralling and a bit spooky.

A good round of applause was given to Beryl, and the meeting was closed at noon.

After that, the ladies were ready for their tea, coffee and biscuits before going home.

The next guild meeting will be on Wednesday, February 26 at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath, at 10.30am.

All visitors will be made welcome.

Hear ye of Town Crier's traditions

WEST BROM CENTRAL

CHAIRMAN Joyce Brown opened the first meeting of 2014 by welcoming members and wishing them a healthy and prosperous New Year.

It was agreed by all present that the Christmas meeting had been extremely enjoyable with West Bromwich Central being joined by 12 members of the Wednesbury Guild with an interesting and informative talk on Christmas traditions past and present.

The annual New Year hamper raffle was won by vice-chairman Joan Cashmore, which was followed by tea and refreshments during which members were able to hear about the origins and duties of the Walsall official Town Crier and inspect various items of regalia associated with the role. A vote of thanks to the speaker was endorsed by members.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 10, at 2 p.m. at Moose Hall, Woodward Street, with a talk on amateur films. Further details may be obtained on 0121 588 2692.



The origins of the Walsall Town Crier was the talk topic

Talk lives up to expectations

HAWNE 'E' TOWNSWOMEN

THE Christmas party was held on December 9. The business part of the meeting was kept as short as possible so members could get to the buffet.

All those attending had bought in a plate of food to contribute and as always the food was gorgeous.

The ladies were then entertained by Halesowen Ukulele Band who played skiffle, rock & roll and some Christmas songs. The chairman welcomed three visitors to

January's meeting and announced that subscription fees will be the same as last year. Members were reminded about the Federation St George's Day lunch.

John Billingham's talks are always eagerly looked forward to, and his talk on the Journey from Old Hill to Dudley lived up to expectations. The next meeting is on Monday, February 17.

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It's not just providing excellent beds that Dreamland is committed to. The company is a proud supporter of Mary Stevens Hospice, raising over £90,000 during the past few years.

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NEWS

Directors call
by canal group

A WATERWAYS preservation group is inviting people to join their board of directors ready to help with a packed year of events.

Stourbridge Navigation Trust are seeking people with fresh ideas and business acumen to fill four positions on its management team.

The trust have managed Stourbridge's Bonded Warehouse and canal-side conservation area for more than three decades. Members helped transform a derelict area into a popular attraction for waterways enthusiasts. The warehouse is also used by a variety of community groups to hold events and exhibitions each year.

The trust relies on donations and sourcing its own funding and runs numerous events during the year to bring in cash.

For further details call finance director Chris Dyche on 01384 375582.

Voucher scheme is aiming
to boost small businesses

A VOUCHER scheme has been launched to help small businesses across Wyre Forest, Worcestershire and the West Midlands.

Bosses can apply for up to £2,000 to match their own investment to get business advice to support their growth aspirations.

The funding is part of a £30 million financial pot set aside by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and is available to businesses which are VAT registered, have been

trading for more than a year and have up to 49 employees. They first have to see whether they are eligible and register their interest before receiving a free business assessment either online or from an advisor.

Deliver

West Midlands Chambers LLP, of which Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce is a member, has been chosen to deliver the scheme in this area.

Louise Wall, regional co-ordinator, said: "The Growth Voucher programme has been devised to test whether firms who access strategic business

advice grow quicker than those that don't and, we will also look at the best way to deliver the advice.

"Businesses which meet the criteria just need to take a few minutes to visit the gov.uk website and apply online for their free business assessment."

"Following the assessment the business will be notified within a matter of days as to whether they have been selected for a Growth Voucher, which the business themselves will match."

"It is open to companies across the UK, but we are delivering the project here in the West Midlands."

Carpet firm is
ready to cut jobs

FAMOUS carpet firm Brintons has announced it is cutting jobs just months after creating dozens of new positions

The long-established Kidderminster firm last week announced that it was in consultations about a 'handful' of possible job losses as part of attempts to streamline UK operations. Last year Brintons invested £3 million and created dozens of jobs at its site in Stourport Road.

The 230-year-old firm invested in new technology which enabled it to offer a wider choice of products. The move saw 35 jobs created with five apprenticeships.

Boss Don Coates said: "We are in the process of streamlining our UK operations, consolidating the residential and commercial divisions so we can minimise duplication and bring our business closer in line with how we operate around the world."

Crochet tribute to
mark war centenary

Melanie Brittain holds crochet classes at her home

A WOMAN is determined to persuade people to become creative with crochet to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War.

Melanie Brittain, 40, of Derwent Drive, Bewdley, is an accountant who balances the books at the University of Worcester by day and relaxes by teaching crochet at home.

Melanie, a volunteer with Kidderminster Arts Festival, is hoping to pass on her skills by appealing for people to help make 661 poppies, to commemorate lives lost locally to her during the war.

She is appealing for people to make the poppies and for donations of red and green wool as well as black buttons.

Melanie said: "I suppose you could say that I am a creative accountant in the better sense of the word. Crochet is a growing art, and more and more people are taking it up."

"I think it is relaxing, and people now want to make things rather than buy them for friends and family. My grandmother taught me the skill when I was eight-years-old but I didn't pick it up properly until I was about 30-years-old."

Call Melanie on 07518 845448.

Volunteers called to
estate open event

POTENTIAL volunteers are being invited to drop in for a cuppa and find out more about the National Trust's Dudmaston Estate, between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

The drop-in event will be staged between 10.30am and noon on Tuesday and staff hope to recruit enough volunteers in time for when they open their doors again to visitors in March.

The property's volunteer champion Tessa Lovell said "Our volunteers are a vital part of the property team and we welcomed more than 60 new faces last year who have made a huge contribution to the running of the property, both in front of and behind the scenes."

"We have loads of opportunities for more to join us this year. Volunteering can mean a whole range of things to people, from enjoying new experiences and meeting new friends, to gaining skills in specific areas of work."

Call Tessa Lovell on 01746 780866 or drop by on the day.

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NEWS

Student wins a place at an American college



Go west — Dan Hughes, from Haybridge High School, Hagley, is pictured with deputy head Rob Lightfoot

DELIGHTED student Dan Hughes will be swapping Worcestershire for the USA when he takes up a dream university place.

The pupil at Haybridge Sixth Form in Hagley has been chosen for a funded spot at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

The 18-year-old said: "I don't think words can describe quite how elated I feel."

Last summer he was one of 150 students who were selected from 1,200 applicants through the Sutton

Trust US Programme to experience a week at Yale University as a student on campus. This was followed by an intensive programme delivered in the UK by the US-UK Fulbright Commission to help him to make his college choice and prepare for crucial admissions tests.

Deputy headteacher Rob Lightfoot said: "This is the opportunity of a lifetime. We are thrilled for Dan and congratulate him - he is a talented and hard-working student who will make the most of this opportunity."

Dan, of Hagley will be studying Liberal Studies and has received funding from the Sutton Trust. He said: "I

would like to thank the fantastic team at Sutton Trust for their support and the extraordinarily generous financial offer to make my dream come true. If hearing about my success can encourage someone else to apply for the programme I would be delighted."

The aim of the US programme is to encourage academically talented, low and middle income British students to study at American universities. Chairman Sir Peter Lampl said, "As well as offering a fantastic opportunity for some of our brightest young people, this lights a beacon for thousands of state school students who are genuine candidates for these universities."

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NEWS

Chapel searches for new organist

A CHAPEL has launched an appeal to find a new organist to maintain a long standing Easter tradition.

Bethel Chapel in Lye, has marked the Christian festival with its own ceremony for six decades.

'The Crucifixion,' a cantata by Sir John Stainer, has regularly been performed on Good Friday in the presence of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of Dudley since the 1940s. But the congregation has found it increasingly difficult to find an experienced organist who is available on the day.

Pastor Jill Berry said: "Classically trained organists are a dying breed and although we have a couple of people who help out at funerals and weddings they tend to play at their home church at Christmas and Easter."

Call Pastor Jill Berry on 01384 892137

Plan to end the 'postcode lottery' on IVF opportunity

PLANS have been unveiled to end the postcode lottery of IVF treatment in the West Midlands.

Health chiefs are overhauling treatments for infertility so every borough's offer is the same and helps more woman become pregnant.

Changes are also intended to cut the current two-year wait for IVF treatment. The new policy proposal offers earlier clinical assessment and investigation and fertility treatment after one year where the cause is known. The minimum age for treatment would also be reduced

from 23 to 20 years old. At present clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), which commission healthcare services in different areas, each have different policies.

The CCGs involved in this consultation, which will run throughout February, are Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and West Birmingham, Birmingham CrossCity, Birmingham South Central and Solihull.

In Sandwell women can be offered two courses of IVF treatment. Under plans to bring each CCG area into line, this would be reduced to one course for each woman in Sandwell so the offer is consistent across the West Midlands.

Bosses concede people affected could have strong feelings about the proposals, so are asking for people to air their views in a consultation. Under plans, fertility treatment will also be offered to all eligible single women and same sex couples.

Andy Williams, accountable officer for Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG, said: "We are aiming to ensure that policies are fair and consistent instead of the existing 'postcode lottery' in which the service offered to women varies according to where they live."

People who want to take part in the survey can visit <http://surveymonkey.com/s/westmids-ivf>.

Firms support higher wages

MORE than two thirds of businesses in the Black Country support an increase in the minimum wage. A survey carried out by The Black Country Chamber of Commerce (BCCC) of more than 200 businesses in the region revealed that 66 per cent of manufacturing companies and 55 per cent of service sector companies favoured increasing the minimum wage in line with inflation.

The results, part of the BCCC Quarterly Economic Survey, also showed that only 18 per cent of Black Country manufacturing firms and 17 per cent of service sector companies say that the minimum wage should stay the same. The current minimum wage is £6.31 an hour for adults and £3.72 for 16 and 17-year-olds. Ninder Johal, vice president of the BCCC, said: "Demand for talent is outstripping supply so we have to be careful not to discourage people from filling vacancies."

Filipino basketball tournament a first



Launch of the first British Filipino Tournament in Dudley

BASKETBALL players showed off their skills at the opening ceremony of a tournament being held in Dudley for the first time.

The British Filipino Association Basketball tournament officially launched at Dudley College's Evolve Campus.

A crowd of around 60 people looked on at the tournament launch with a grand opening ceremony recently.

Four teams will battle it out over the course of the 12 week competition, with just one being crowned the overall winner.

Many of those taking part were players originally from The Philippines who live and work in the Dudley and Wolverhampton areas.

Councillor Qadar Zada, Labour councillor for the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's wards, was at the tournament.

He said: "This was a really big event for the Dudley area and the staff working at Evolve all said there have been an excellent turnout. It is the first time the tournament has been held here in Dudley. What I saw at the tournament launch was a demonstration of great community support."

Investment sees company expand

A DUDLEY company that played a major role in sprucing up Waterloo train station in time for the Olympic Games has invested £300,000 to launch a new manufacturing service.

Mercia Architectural, which employs 22 people at its Shaw Road factory, is the first manufacturer in the region to install the Dynamic Mach3 high pressure water jet cutting system and is already setting its sights on winning new contracts in the automotive, aerospace and high value engineering fields.

The acquisition gives the firm the ability to accurately cut a comprehensive range of materials at high speed, including composites, fiberglass, wood, plastic and even titanium.

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MEMORY LANE



Cyril and his wife Eva who brought up Darrell when he was a baby



The iconic Molineux Road Stand where Cyril bought Darrell his first season ticket E4 under the old clock



Wolves hat-trick hero Terry Wharton

Cyril inspired a lifelong devotion of Wanderers

by Peter Madeley

HIS devotion to the boys in old gold and black was second to none.

An old soldier born and bred in the Black Country with a love for proper pork scratchings, Banks's Mild and Pavarotti.

Cyril Yates died in March 2003, aged 84, after suffering with Alzheimer's disease for a number of years, but his memory still shines brightly in the heart of his 'son' Darrell.

"He was always a very proud man," said Darrell, a Wolves season ticket holder who used to write under the pseudonym JIWAL - John Ireland Whinge A Lot - in the fanzine A Load Of Bull. "Dad was a strict disciplinarian with a dry sense of humour."

Darrell was actually Cyril's grandson, but he believed him to be his father until the age of nine because Cyril and his wife Eva had looked after him from birth.

"Cyril raised me and in my eyes he will always be my dad," said Darrell, a finance manager for Poplars, Cannock. "And it is certainly down to him that I developed such

a passion for the Wolves!" Cyril was born in Dixon's Green, Dudley, in 1918. After Second World War service in the army he worked at Bean Factory, Tipton, and Ratcliff's, Eagle Lane, Great Bridge.

Darrell, 55, said Cyril played cricket for Dudley in the Birmingham Cricket League. But his main sporting love was Wolverhampton Wanderers - an obsession he passed on to a nine-year-old Darrell in 1966. "That was the year he took me to my first game," said Darrell, from Dudley.

"We beat Cardiff 7-1 and Terry Wharton scored a hat-trick. I suppose that's when I got the bug! The following season he bought me my first season ticket."

One early recollection involves a young Darrell approaching the legendary comedian Tommy Trinder, who was chairman of Fulham at the time. Darrell said: "My dad told me to go and get Trinder's autograph as he came out onto the car park of the old social club. But when I approached him he belittled 'out of my way, sonny!' and brushed

me aside like paper. "My dad gave him the biggest verbal volley of all time - I was really shocked at the colourful language - and I remember Trinder's trademark trilby hat falling off his head!"

"After that dad would turn off the TV whenever Trinder appeared on screen."

At the late 70s Cyril stopped going to games because of the hooliganism but he was persuaded to return for the fourth division play-off final against Aldershot in 1987. "He was hooked again," said father-of-four Darrell. Before the game he was approached by rock legend Robert Plant, who asked if the seats next to them were taken. It was the start of a lasting friendship.

Cyril died just two months before his beloved Wolves won the play-off final in Cardiff to book a return to the top flight of English football for the first time in 21 years. Darrell regularly visits his parents' grave at Tipton Cemetery to keep Cyril up to date about Wolves. Darrell said: "I always think of my prized possession growing up as being my season ticket in seat E4 under the old clock in the Molineux Street Stand."



Cyril did not see the funny side when comedian Tommy Trinder was rude to Darrell



A chance meeting at Molineux led to a friendship between Cyril and rock legend Robert Plant

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NEWS

More than £20k now raised towards minibus

STUDENTS and staff at a special school will soon be travelling in style thanks to the generosity of supporters who have raised more than £20,000 to buy a new minibus.

Donations have been received from families of children at Sunfield School as well as regular supporters and staff, including some who raised money by taking part in the Great Black Country Run, organised by the Rotary Club.

The final amount for this new minibus was raised by Mike Brown of Dreamland Bedding, who organised a Christmas fundraising event in Belbroughton.

Community

The school now aims to add a further two vehicles to its fleet and is encouraging the local community to get on board with fundraising activities.

Staff say the minibuses are vital to get students out and about from the Client-based school, which cares for young people with complex learning needs, including autism. Without the minibuses, educational and social trips to community facilities such as swimming pools, leisure centres, cafes and shops would be almost impossible.

Director of appeals and development Ian Jones, said: "The school's rural setting means that transport needs are a major consideration, especially

during bad weather. We launched our fundraising appeal in September and we are delighted that we've reached our first target so quickly. We are grateful to everyone who has supported us so far and we would like to thank Dreamland Bedding for their ongoing support that has helped us to complete the first appeal.



Sunfield's Ian Jones and Michael Frosch with, centre, benefactor Mike Brown

"We really need two more vehicles with a total price tag of £32k, so we're calling on the local community to get involved to help us reach our fundraising destination."

Mr Brown said he was delighted to help, adding: "My wife Jacqui and I heard that Sunfield needed some help and were delighted to donate contribu-

tions raised from our annual Christmas party, which met the £1,800 shortfall. We have been connected to Sunfield for many years. The work that they do makes a huge difference to the lives of many young people and their families."

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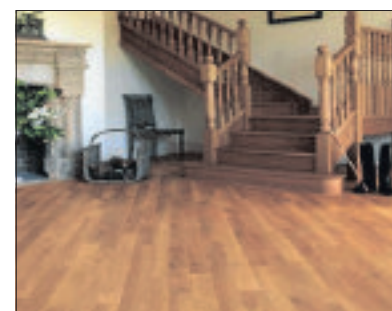
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NEWS

Tribute paid to male stripper who inspired art

THE male stripper whose risque show in a Dudley pub inspired one of Britain's best-loved paintings has died at the age of 87.

Andy Wade was thought to be Britain's first male stripper.

His performance at Saltwells Inn in 1974 is thought to have been the basis for *Ladies' Night*, one of the most instantly recognisable paintings by novelty artist Beryl Cook.

The moment was captured on camera at the time by Express & Star man Graham Gough, and attracted worldwide attention after the pictures were reproduced in The Sun and German tabloid Bild.

Characters

It was then picked up by Cook, who was famous for her cartoon-like paintings featuring larger-than-life characters in different situations. Mr Wade, real name John Hotchkiss, later went on to work as an extra in the television series 'Allo 'Allo. He lived in the Northfield area of Birmingham before later moving to Wales.

Mr Gough, who lives in Kinver, paid tribute to the performer, saying he was a master showman. "He was

a nice bloke, really good fun to work with," he said. "I met him a couple of times afterwards. He always said the picture had done him a lot of good, he had received a lot of work as a result of it."

Mr Gough, who is 74, was told by a friend of Beryl Cook's that the artist had bought a large print of his photograph. "He said she had decided to do something on it after seeing the photograph. She didn't copy the picture but she did get the idea from it. It's quite flattering."

He said it was one of his favourite photographs, and won the Midlands



The famous picture of Andy Wade



Beryl Cook's Ladies' Night painting

News Picture of the Year award for 1975.

He remembers it being quite a daunting job to work on but says that was probably part of the appeal.

"When we took that picture there were just us two blokes there among all those women, and it got a bit frisky. I was quite glad to get out of there with all my clothes on. There are some great expressions on the faces of the women," he said. Mr Wade died on January 18. *Ladies' Night*, which was released in 1980, was one of Cook's most instantly recognisable images, capturing the the astonishment and

hilarity of the moment a male stripper reveals all. The artist was adept at capturing moments in time, creating a picture postcard quality that made her a favourite for calendars and posters.

Cook died in 2008 at the age of 81. Once described by Victoria Wood as 'Rubens with jokes', Cook portrayed a world of innocent naughtiness that divided critics but established her as a firm favourite with the public, who never tired of the cards and reproductions of her work. Her paintings featured on postage stamps along with Renoir and Rodin but never in the Tate or the National galleries.

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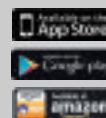


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Express & Star

Appeal for cat charity helpers

AN appeal has been launched to find more volunteers to help at an animal charity. Cats Protection's Stourbridge and district branch is appealing for people to help with its cat rehoming service.

Other help is needed with book-keeping, home visiting and public relations in the area.

Branch member Deborah Cox said: "Volunteering for Cats Protection is a fun and rewarding experience, whether you have a skill that would benefit the charity or would like to develop new skills by taking on a fresh challenge."

"Our volunteers gain a great deal of satisfaction helping cats get a second chance in life."

Call 0844 884 8520 or email info@stourbridgecats.org.uk for details.

Patients concerned over bus route to health centre

ELDERLY and infirm patients fear they may struggle to reach a new £8.5 million medical centre due to inadequate public transport links.

The Foster, Rastrick and Company plant, in Stourbridge, is being transformed into a modern surgery as the new location for the Worcester Street Surgery.

Work to convert the derelict factory into an £8.5 million health centre, serving 26,000 patients, began in October last year.

The restoration of the Grade II listed foundry

building, in Lowndes Road, is on track to be completed in the spring.

However concerns have been raised with ward councillors that the health practice is not positioned on an existing bus route.

Talks

The current site, in Worcester Street, has a bus stop nearby but officials have said the layout of the new centre's car park would not allow for buses to turn around.

Talks have been held with the practice managers, Dudley Council and public transport body Centro but they have failed to find a solution.

Ward councillor Barbara Sykes said it was important that a resolution was found to ensure access for all.

"If a bus goes on to the new site it can't make a complete circle. It would need to reverse," she said.

"The nearest public transport to the new surgery will be the bus stop in Envile Street and people will have to walk all the way down Lowndes Road to the surgery. It's a pretty long road especially for elderly people to walk along."

"The centre will be good when it is finished and opened but I'm surprised that this situation was not considered at the planning stage."

Head of steam for new season

GANGS of workers face a race against time to ensure the Severn Valley Railway is able to get up steam for the expected busy February half-term which always sees visitors flocking to travel on the heritage steam line between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

Currently 23 young apprentices are learning valuable skills of track maintenance as work is carried out to replace worn-out parts of the 16-mile long line.

They have been working under the guidance of Steve Brown, a 65-year-old retired project engineer who worked in the automotive supply industry.

They have been replacing track close to the railway's Kidderminster station.

Steve, a senior supervisor for the Bewdley Permanent Way Group of volunteers, said: "We have been replacing two panels of worn-out track beneath Aggborough footbridge."

Serious and slimline Lenny wins award



It's a snarling, slimline Lenny Henry in the play Fences

LENNY Henry has revealed that he has shed three stone after being diagnosed with diabetes as he picked up a prestigious acting award.

The 55-year-old Dudley-born comic, turned serious actor, now eats sugar-free food and has started Ashtanga yoga to battle the disease that cost his late mother both her legs.

He said: "I'm a bit diabetic, so I was put on a very strict diet. I've lost between two-and-a-half and three stone. I was big. It's lots of greens, lots of juice and lots of walking. Swimming is good."

"You've got to eat no sugar and drink hardly any alcohol... all the stuff you like. You can't Hobnob your way through the day."

Speaking at the Critics' Circle Theatre Awards, where he won the best actor for his role in August Wilson's American drama Fences, Lenny revealed how his mother Winifred suffered from diabetes for seven years and had a double leg amputation before she died in 1998.

Fences won rave reviews when the play toured the UK after opening at the Theatre Royal, Bath, and later transferred to the Duchess Theatre in London.

Charity's aim is to help young musicians

A CHARITY named after a Bewdley woman has been set up in her memory to inspire talented young musicians and artists across Wyre Forest and Worcestershire.

The Helen Rachael Mackness Charitable Trust aims to promote the education of budding young local musicians and artists by using a new £1.3 million pot to award individual grants, scholarships and funding to local schools and colleges for education programmes. Established by a group of

local trustees, who include Maynard Burton, partner and chairman at Kidderminster law firm mfg Solicitors, the charity's formation followed a request in the 87-year-old's will after her death in 2010.

Miss Mackness, who left her whole estate to various charities with the balance being distributed in accordance with the trust, was a trained musician and related to the British 18th century landscape and watercolour painter, Julius Caesar Ibbetson.

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MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTW caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 408297

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409515

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

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ABI creative free spirited lady enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTW well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409723

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTW broadminded male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTW loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lovely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859

JOANNA 34, in need of tie, winning, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489

Men seeking women

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DAN 36, down to earth, attractive, enjoy pub, meals out, football, boxing, cinema, shopping, seeking special female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410037

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157

PAUL 55, 6ft 2ins, intelligent, down to earth, kind, genuine, honest, seeks female, 50-60 for relationship, many hobbies. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409783

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, easy going, GSOH, likes sport, socialising, company, seeking similar lady with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410175

MALE 47, would like loving, adult relationship, age/size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410107

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LOCAL businessman, seeking special friend for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409585

SAM seeking lovely lady for great times likes sports, good standard of living, looking for some fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409527

GENEROUS male, 6ft, GSOH, likes music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409019

GENUINE South Shropshire male, 45, 5ft 10ins, GSOH, likes walks, cycling, music, seeks lady of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409897

NICK GSOH, looking for someone caring to share fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410001

DAVE 54, seeking female, 40-51 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409839

MALE likes nights out, holidays, seeking nice female for friendship, fun and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409363

GARY 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409207

TONY 55, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks mature, attractive female, 68 plus, genuine ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408989

ATTRACTIVE male, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, loving, genuine, seeks attractive female, single mum welcome. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409471

PETE 6ft 1ins, likes body building, kick boxing, seeks female for love and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409451

MASON single parent, seeking female for no strings fun times, 30-45. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409443

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Visit the D-Day beaches or turn north for the enchanting fishing port of Honfleur, or maybe you prefer to follow the sun to the south.

Whether heading west into Celtic Brittany, the French equivalent of Cornwall, or south-west to the Loire Valley and long sandy Atlantic beaches of the Vendee and Poitou-Charentes — do take time to stop off at the magical Mont St Michel, with its ancient abbey on an island linked to the mainland by a causeway, or the castle at Fougeres, one of the finest fortresses in Europe.

The city of Nantes is a must for steampunk fans because of the Les Machines de L'île where you can clamber aboard a massive mechanical elephant that walks around the former dockyards. The fantasy engineering



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is inspired by science fiction pioneer Jules Verne, a son of Nantes. It's not worth the extra fee to see the workshops but you pay separately for the elephant and ocean themed carousel.

The resorts of the Vendee beckon you to a land of shellfish and wine, or carry on to the A-list Ile de Re, where France's VIPs spend their holidays on a pretty island reached by a vertigo-inducing toll bridge. Next is the harbour city of La Rochelle, where you can take boat trips to the tiny Ile d'Aix and circumnavigate Fort Boyard, or head into the marshes to the walled town of Brouage and imagine yourself as one of the musketeers.

Royan is a modern resort at the mouth of the Gironde estuary in easy

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What's On!

Boogie woogie blues and jazz

BRIT blues legends Nine Below Zero are in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Friday, February 14, with special guest boogie woogie pianist Ben Waters, who was asked to play at Jools Holland's wedding.

Tickets are £13 in advance or £15 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or go to www.therobin.co.uk. Support will come from the Keith Thompson Band.

Also coming up at the Mount Pleasant venue are Drum's jive jazz specialists King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys tonight (Thursday). On February 13 Sons Of Cream visit. This tribute group features the offspring of 60s supergroup Cream - Kofi Baker (son of Ginger) on drums, Malcolm Bruce (son of Jack) on bass and Eric Clapton's nephew Will Johns on guitar.

Lemmy's illness halts Motorhead

BRITISH rockers Motorhead have had to cancel their rescheduled Wolverhampton gig because of singer and bassist Lemmy's health issues. The concert at the Civic Hall was originally planned for November last year but was postponed until February 17 but that too has been axed as the entire spring European tour has been called off.

A spokesperson for the band said that Lemmy Kilmister had continuing health issues linked to his diabetes and had reluctantly accepted medical advice that it was too soon to tour. Refunds are available from points of purchase.

Chills and thrills of tales to haunt the Grand audiences

Hear the best of the new

THE music scene really takes off this month after the January lull with some of the best young bands and solo performers on the way to the West Midlands.

Guitar-slingers The Boxer Rebellion, with album Promises and new single Keep Moving under their belts, play Birmingham's O2 Academy tonight (Friday). Polyrhythmic Oxford outfit Foals are at the Bristol Street venue on Tuesday and Manchester's The 1975, who had a hit last year with Chocolate and soon release new single Settle Down, are in concert at the O2 venue on Wednesday.

Long Way Down chart-topper Tom Odell is at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Sunday with support from Fryars and James Bay. Super-cool trio London Grammar have a gig at the O2 Academy on February 16 and have added a date at Wolverhampton Civic on June 6.



Singer-songwriter Tom Odell has a concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall this Sunday

TWO familiar actors will be presenting a double bill of classic spine-tingling ghost stories at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

From Wednesday to Saturday, February 12-15, the theatre will be haunted by eerie tales from Charles Dickens and MR James.

Veteran actor Jack Shepherd, who was the star of TV detective show Wycliffe, will be joined by Terrence Hardiman,

who was BBC's The Demon Headmaster, for versions of The Signalman and Oh, Whistle and I'll Come To You, My Lad, both stories featuring terrifying ghosts. It is surely a must-see for anyone who enjoyed The Woman In Black or traditional Christmas TV ghost stories. There are nightly performances plus matinees on the Wednesday and Saturday, for those who would rather not venture into the dark after such spooky tales!

Tickets range from £11.50 to £25.50, see www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Denise Van Outen brings her one-woman 'play with music' Some Girls I Used To Know to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Wednesday. She will also be bringing the show to the Grand from February 20 to 22, after the Wolverhampton theatre stages raunchy comedy 51 Shades of Maggie from February 17 to 19.

Top choreographer Matthew Bourne's all-male



Jack Shepherd

version of Swan Lake has extended its run at Birmingham Hippodrome from last night to February 15.

David Essex has a major dramatic role in new play The Dishwashers, written by Morris Panych and directed by Nikolai Foster, at Birmingham Rep until February 15. This witty drama looks at the men who scrub and scrape in the kitchen of an up-market London restaurant, including one former financial high-flyer who used to be a customer rather than a dishwasher.

Lady Gaga will be having a ball

GLOBAL pop superstar Lady Gaga is coming to Birmingham's city centre NIA as part of her artRave: The ArtPop Ball Tour on October 15.

Tickets go on sale to the general public from 9am on Saturday, though O2 customers will get a three day headstart. Ticket prices will range from £35 to £90. See www.livemation.co.uk website

A major music festival has also been announced for Birmingham this summer with rapper Kanye West topping the bill at the Wireless Festival in Perry Park, which takes place between July 4 and 6. Also on the bill will be fellow Americans and chart-toppers Pharrell Williams, Bruno Mars and Drake, plus British singers Ellie Goulding and John Newman.

Swingin' songs from US legend

FROM Rags to Ritzes, a celebration of American musical songbook great Irving Berlin, will be held at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra and narration from Radio 2's Leo Green. Guest singers include Sophie Evans, who was runner-up on BBC's The X Factor, alongside Mary Carey, Matthew Ford and Tom Langham.

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra will also feature Berlin's music as part of their Songs for Swingin' Orchestra concert at the Symphony Hall on February 28. See www.thsh.co.uk for tickets.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 8.02.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Marvin Humes

The Voice UK BBC1, 7.10pm
Who knows why Kylie Minogue signed up for this sick talent search, but thank heavens she did, because together with charming Kaiser Chief Ricky Wilson, she's been the short in the arm the show needed. And it perhaps goes without saying that Tom Jones and Will.i.am continue to deliver the goods, even if the latter's "dope" lingo is wearing thin. As ever, the judges will be giving their verdict on the potential stars with the golden tonsils, while staying immobile for those who don't rock their world. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the fifth set of Blind Auditions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Wales (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v England (Kick-off 5.00pm). **6.55** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.10** **The Voice UK**. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are backstage for the penultimate week of blind auditions, with Kylie Minogue, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson looking to bolster their teams. **8.35** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins**. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers list as much as they know about given subjects. **9.25** **Casualty**. The medics examine a teenager hurt in a mountain-bike accident – only to come across old injuries that suggest he might be a victim of abuse. Jamie decides to leave for Australia. **10.15** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day**. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield and Swansea City v Cardiff City at the Liberty Stadium; National Lottery Update. **12.00** The Football League Show. **1.20** Weatherview. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. **6.30** Film: Annie Oakley. (1935) **8.00** Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the opening day of the Games from Russia. **11.00** See Hear. **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** The Great British Bake Off: The Winner's Story. (R) **1.00** Film: Easy Virtue. (2008) **2.30** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the opening day of the Games in Russia. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Live Winter Olympics. **7.00** **Winter Olympics: Today at the Games**. Clare Balding introduces highlights from the opening day in Russia, where the first five gold medals were decided in venues in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana. **8.00** **Torvill & Dean: The Perfect Day**. Documentary telling the story behind ice-dancing duo Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's gold medal-winning performance at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. **9.00** **Dad's Army**. Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot for a big parade and plumps for a ram, but catching a suitable candidate for the job proves easier said than done. (R) **9.30** **Hanif Kureishi: Writers Are Trouble – A Culture Show Special**. Author and screenwriter Hanif Kureishi chats to Alan Yentob about his new book, his latest film and placing his personal archive in the vaults of the British Library. **10.30** Film: **My Beautiful Laundrette**. (1985) Comedy drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis. **12.05** Film: The Mother. (2003) **1.50** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **8.25** TV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Catchphrase. (R) **12.15** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.15** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.15** You've Been Framed! (R) **4.15** Regional Programme: Weather. **4.25** ITV News: Weather. **4.40** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith. (2005) **7.10** **Splash!** Dan Osborne, Anna Williamson, Austin Healey and Richard Whitehead perform two dives each in the second semi-final. Vernon Kay and Gabby Logan present. **8.40** **Take Me Out**. A discombobulating bachelor, a stockbroker, a nanny and a student try to impress a panel of 30 single women and win a date to the Isle of Fernandos. **9.55** **The Jonathan Ross Show**. The host is joined by 24 star Kiefer Sutherland, actress Emily Mortimer, actor Chris O'Dowd and comedian Kevin Bridges. Nine-time Grammy winner John Legend provides the music. **10.55** TV News: Weather. **11.10** Film: **2 Fast 2 Furious**. (2003) A disgraced cop is given a chance to redeem himself by going undercover to bring a drug trafficker to justice. Thriller sequel, with Paul Walker. **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **9.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** How I Met Your Mother. **11.25** How I Met Your Mother. **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.05** **Come Dine with Me**. (R) **6.35** **Channel 4 News**. **7.00** **Bigfoot Files**. Mark Evans travels to Russia to investigate the story of Zana, a "wild woman" said to have been found in the 1870s and thought to be a hominid or Neanderthal. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** **Walking Through History**. New series. Tony Robinson embarks on a twopoth exploration of industrial engineering along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, tracing the story of its chaotic construction. **9.00** **Hostages**. Ellen struggles to make an agonising choice between saving her husband or protecting her children, and is forced to perform emergency surgery in her own home. **10.00** Film: **Source Code**. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal. **11.40** Film: **Jackie Brown**. (1997) Crime drama, starring Pam Grier. **2.25** Southland. (R) **3.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.20** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Film: An American Tail. (1986) Animated adventure, with the voice of Phillip Glasser. **11.35** Film: Thunderpants. (2002) Family comedy, starring Bruce Cook. **1.15** Film: Phenomenon. (1996) Fantasy drama, starring John Travolta. **3.40** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **4.40** Film: Columbo: An Exercise in Fatality. (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Robert Conrad. **6.40** **NCIS**. The team tries to find out who was responsible for sabotaging a robotic vehicle that caused the death of a Navy lieutenant and almost killed Abby. (R) **7.30** **NCIS**. The discovery of a dead marine intelligence officer in a motel room sets the team off on a hunt for her killer in an investigation that may lead to a terrorist cell. (R) **8.30** **5 News Weekend**. **8.35** **The NCIS Movie: Enemies**. Feature-length episode. Ziva confronts her past when the team is ordered to protect her father, Mossad director Eli David, at a gathering of former heads of NCIS. (R) **10.15** Film: **Willied to Kill**. (2012) Premiere. A detective must face up to her own troubled childhood when a serial killer develops a twisted obsession with her. Thriller, with Sarah Jane Morris and Michael Riley. **12.05** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Enemy of the State (1998) **11.05** Family Guy **BBC Four**
7.00 Wild China **8.00** Pain, Pus & Poison: The Search for Modern Medicines **9.00** Salamander **10.35** Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here **11.35** Pink Floyd: A Delicate Sound of Thunder **ITV2**
3.00 Film: Dennis (1993) **4.55** Film: Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **6.50** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00** Film: The Shawshank Redemption (1994) **11.55** The Maguluf Weekender **ITV3**
3.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Vera **11.00** A Touch of Frost **Drama**
3.10 Caddafel **4.40** One Foot in the Grave **6.00** All Creatures Great and Small **7.00** Young James Herriot **8.20** Last of the Summer Wine **9.00** Waking the Dead **11.25** Sharpe **E4**
4.00 Rules of Engagement **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Beverly Hills Cop (1984) **11.05** Rude Tube: Rude Zoo **Film4**
3.05 Jungle 2 Jungle (1997) **5.10** Leap Year (2010) **7.05** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Slumdog Millionaire (2008) Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning drama, with Dev Patel and Freida Pinto. With an introduction by Danny Boyle. **11.25** Trainspotting (1996)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 9.02.14

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CHOICE



Derek Jacobi



Cadfael, 9pm
Dramatised from the novel of the late Ellis Peters, the 90 minute film begins with pilgrims being brought to Shrewsbury Abbey after they are suspected of being behind the discovery of a rotting corpse of an old man in a sack. Imprisoning them all within the Abbey walls, Cadfael renders the corpse down to its bones to discover the cause of murder. Among the resentful pilgrims are a couple of young thieves - Melangell (Vanity Fair's Natasha Little) and her brother Walter (Lee Ingleby).

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** The Indian Doctor. (R) **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

6.00 **Fake or Fortune?** Philip Mould and Bendor Grosvenor identify two works from public collections that could be by 18th-century portrait artist Thomas Gainsborough. Last in the series.

7.00 **Countryfile**. A trip to the Lake District, where the show's opening titles were filmed. Matt Baker visits the beach the horses race across and Helen Skelton recreates the rock-climbing scene. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Call the Midwife**. Jenny has an eventful few days, starting with a patient who as well as having herself to worry about, is also struggling to cope with her agoraphobic mother.

9.00 **The Musketeers**. Aramis's loyalty to the Musketeer regiment is tested when he agrees to help an old friend uncover the truth behind a disastrous mission.

10.00 **BBC News**: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2**. Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Everton.

11.25 **Film: Brooklyn's Finest**. (2009) Crime thriller, starring Richard Gere.

1.30 Weatherview. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the opening session on day two of the Games. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.30** **Film: The Gumball Rally**. (1976) **2.10** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the second day from Russia. **4.30** Live Winter Olympics. Concluding coverage.

7.10 **Winter Olympics: Today at the Games**. Clare Balding introduces highlights from day two in Russia, where eight gold medals were decided in venues in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana.

8.00 **Top Gear**. Richard Hammond gets behind the wheel of the Alfa Romeo 4C. Jeremy Clarkson puts the McLaren P1 hypercar to the test and Thor star Tom Hiddleston drives the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 **Dragons' Den**. A couple pitch their glamorous camping business, a mother-of-four from Shropshire has a new take on the coffee bag, and one entrepreneur attempts to graffiti the Den.

10.00 **Alan Davies Apres-Ski**. A comic look at the news and action from the Winter Olympics. (R)

10.30 **QI XL**. With Jo Brand, Liza Tarbuck and Sue Perkins. (R)

11.15 **Royal Cousins at War**. Part one of two. The impact the relationships between cousins Nicholas II of Russia, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and the UK's George V had on the outbreak of the First World War. (R)

12.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.10** Holly City. (R) **2.10** The Search for Alfred the Great. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two. **5.00** Live Winter Olympics.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.15** ITV News: Weather.

11.20 The Unforgettable Dudley Moore. (R) **11.50** Inside the National Trust. **12.50** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.50** Splash! (R) **3.20** **Film: Thunderball**. (1965) **5.50** Regional Programme: Weather.

6.00 **ITV News**: Weather.

6.15 **Dancing on Ice**. The seven remaining stars perform to songs from 1984 as the show marks the 30th anniversary of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean winning gold at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics. The results are at 8.30pm.

7.45 **All Star Family Fortunes**. With Olympic rowing hero Steve Redgrave and Emmerdale's Natalie Anderson.

8.30 **Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off**. Another star skater is eliminated.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge**. The men of Selfridges clamour to do their bit for the war effort.

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**. Weather.

10.15 **Birds of a Feather**. Sharon's estranged husband asks for a divorce. (R)

10.45 **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Tony Blackburn**. (R) **11.45** **Premiership Rugby Union**. Action from the 13th round of top-flight fixtures.

12.40 **The Store**. (R) **2.40** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.05** **ITV Nightscreen**. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Frasier. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** The Taste. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** How I Met Your Mother. **1.55** How I Met Your Mother. **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** **Film: Three Men and a Cradle**. (1987) **5.30** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 **Channel 4 News**.

7.00 **Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast**. Jamie Oliver creates a Sunday roast and curry fusion. Jimmy Doherty builds a DIY smoker and former Radio 1 DJ Chris Moyles prepares his favourite dish - a New York-style pizza. (R)

8.00 **Scandinavia**. In Denmark, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall cooks with Rene Redzepi, owner of the award-winning restaurant Noma, and meets actor Soren Malling, star of The Killing and Borgen.

9.00 **Babylon**. Film comedy drama, directed by Danny Boyle. Violence erupts across London as the Met chief tries to revamp the force's public image. Starring James Nesbitt.

10.35 **Film: The Bank Job**. (2008) A London bank robber accidentally steals top-secret files which the government and security services want buried. Fact-based thriller, starring Jason Statham and Saffron Burrows.

12.40 **Film: Tigerland**. (2000) **2.20** Boss. **3.20** Abductees. (R) **3.30** Eating for Two. (R) **3.35** Location, Location. (R) **4.35** Supernanny US. (R) **5.15** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.30** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Milkshake! Pop Box. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Mio, Mio. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.10** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.05** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.05** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **2.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** **Film: Daddy Day Camp**. (2007) **4.50** **Film: Land of the Lost**. (2009)

6.45 **Film: Planet of the Apes**. (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet ruled by intelligent apes, who capture and enslave him. Tim Burton's sci-fi remake, starring Mark Wahlberg.

8.55 **5 News Weekend**.

9.00 **Film: The Expendables**. (2010) A mercenary team is double-crossed while on a mission to kill a South American dictator. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone.

10.55 **Film: Full Metal Jacket**. (1987) Vietnam War drama, starring Matthew Modine.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Ultimate Emergency Bikers. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.45** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **7.05** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.35** The Voice UK **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Uncle

BBC Four
7.00 Francesco's Italy Top to Toe **8.00** Wainwright: The Man Who Loved the Lakes **9.00** Space Shuttle: The Final Mission **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** **Film: Tomboy** (2011) **11.50** Arena: The Every Brothers

ITV2
2.40 **Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas** (2000) **4.25** **Film: Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties** (2006) **6.00** **Film: Rumor Has It** (2005) **8.00** Best of You've Been Framed! **9.00** The Magul! Weekender **10.00** **Film: Bridget Jones's Diary** (2001)

ITV3
2.50 Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** Lewis **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** **Film: Steptoe and Son Ride Again** (1973)

Drama
2.30 Catherine Cookson's The Moth **5.30** A Bit of a Do **6.40** Monarch of the Glen **7.50** Lovejoy **9.00** Cadfael **10.30** Jonathan Creek **11.30** A Bit of a Do

E4
4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** **Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief** (2010) **10.25** **Film: The Running Man** (1987)

Film4
3.20 The Towering Inferno (1974) **6.25** A Knight's Tale (2001) **9.00** Black Swan (2010) **11.05** Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (2008)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Death Race, Channel 5, 11pm

Jensen Ames is framed for the murder of his wife and sent to Terminal Island Prison, a facility that broadcasts the highly profitable Death Race, a high-octane event where convicts battle to the death in customised cars. When a popular driver dies, crooked prison warden Hennessey persuades Ames to take his place, claiming he will be released if he is victorious. Sci-fi thriller, starring Jason Statham and Joan Allen. (2008)

TUESDAY

The Hoax, BBC1, 11.35pm

Drama set in the 1970s, based on the true story of Clifford Irving, a struggling author who managed to convince a publisher that business magnate Howard Hughes had personally hired him as a biographer. Banking on the reclusive billionaire being too publicity shy to contradict his claims, Irving offered the rights to the book for \$1million. But keeping up the deception demanded an ever more complex web of lies. With Richard Gere and Marcia Gay Harden. (2006)

WEDNESDAY

Dangerous Attraction, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman is driven into seclusion out of fear of a stalker, but resolves to fight back when he threatens those closest to her. Thriller, with Amanda Righetti and Catherine Hicks. (2012)



Death Race, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

I Love You Phillip Morris, Channel 4, 12.05am

A gay man keeps his criminal career and his sexuality a secret from his family, until he ends up in prison for fraud. While serving his sentence, he falls madly in love with a fellow convict and becomes determined to secure their future together – even if it involves a great deal of criminal activity and several prison breaks. Fact-based romantic comedy drama, with Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor. (2009)

THURSDAY

Like Mother, Like Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman searching for her missing daughter receives help from a professor – but does not realise he murdered her. Thriller, starring Michelle Stafford. (2007)

FRIDAY

Before Sunrise, BBC2, 11.05pm

American tourist Jesse and French student Celine meet by chance on a train travelling to Vienna. The two strangers form a close connection almost instantly, and spend the day together in the city, discussing their hopes and dreams. However, their romance seems likely to only last a day, as Jesse is due to fly back home. Richard Linklater's romantic drama, starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy. (1995)

Pick of the Week

Visionary Liz fails to see the upcoming trouble

Director Danny Boyle won critical acclaim for movies such as *Trainspotting* and *28 Days Later*, an Oscar for *Slumdog Millionaire*, and unofficial national treasure status for overseeing the 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony.

But in the unlikely event that he still feels a little underappreciated, maybe he should listen to what Brit Marling has to say about him.

The actress, whose credits include *The East* and *Arbitrage*, gushes: "Danny, you feel, has the kind of curious mind and unstoppable heart that are capable of anything – exploring a distant galaxy and building a new world from scratch there for instance."

"So it's lucky for us he chose to be a storyteller in a time where we need them so desperately – to make sense of the world we are living in and how to navigate it."

Given that glowing endorsement, it's no surprise that Marling signed on for Boyle's latest project, police comedy-drama *Babylon*.

Written by Peep Show and Fresh Meat veterans Sam Bain and Jesse

Armstrong (Marling has high praise for them as well – "such great writers it's borderline dangerous"), it boasts James Nesbitt at the head of an impressive cast as Chief Constable Richard Miller, who realises that the London police force could do with a bit of a public image revamp.

And he thinks American new-media visionary Liz Garvey (Marling) is just the woman to do it. She believes that in an era of rolling news, social media and members of the public potentially filming everything on their phones, it's more important than ever for the cops to be open and transparent, an idea that Marling found intriguing.

"Danny and I spoke on the phone and I loved how he saw the story developing, and the questions he wanted to ask about how technology and the transparency it creates is changing all of our lives. How does law enforcement change when a criminal is using Twitter or Instagram? What's the future of the public's involvement in law enforcement as a result?"

"And how do you create a career girl that isn't a typical ball-buster but is multi-faceted?"

Luckily, she thinks the writers cracked it. "I think [Liz] is a very interesting person, because she's been successful very young, and she's used to getting her way and things moving quickly. And I think she suddenly moves into this new job and it's not quite what she expected, and there's all sorts of political intrigue, and certain people who don't want her there, and she realises that changing things is going to be much more difficult than she thought."

It's not just her new colleagues putting her theories to the test though, as London is rocked by outbreaks of violence. As visions of modern Britain go, it may not be as uplifting as the Queen jumping out of a plane with James Bond, but it hasn't put American star Marling off.

She's as enthusiastic about her co-stars (including Jill Halfpenny, Paterson Joseph, Bertie Carvel and Adam Deacon) and the city itself as she is about Boyle.

"I think I'm turning into something of an addict. I just want to be in London all the time. I'll just come over here to make anything people will hire me for."



Brit Marling stars in *Babylon*, Sunday, Channel 4, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Jim Davidson: At Least I'm Not Boring Channel 5, 9pm

What a difference a year makes. Twelve months ago, Jim Davidson was fending off police allegations, but he's won so much public favour since then that he was recently crowned winner of the latest edition of *Celebrity Big Brother*. While he might have had his fair share of arguments in the house, what you see is definitely what you get with Jim – an opinionated, honest man with whom you'll always know where you stand. This profile of the comedian charts his rise to fame after appearing on talent show *New Faces* in 1976, before going on to become a household name hosting BBC favourites *Big Break* and *The Generation Game*.

TUESDAY

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris's Final Answer ITV, 8pm

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire is such a TV institution, it's arguably launched a few quiz questions of its own, including "who was the first person to win a million?" (Answer: future Egghead Judith Keppel.) But which contestants and moments stand out for host Chris Tarrant? Well, we're about to find out, as following the two celebrity specials that brought down the curtain on the hugely successful series, he looks back over nearly 16 years of 'Millionaire'. As you'd expect Charles Ingram, the so-called 'Coughing Major', who was accused of cheating his way to the top prize, features – which should also remind us that

at its height, WWTBAM was so popular, even a documentary about Ingram was watched by an impressive 17 million viewers.

Inside the Animal Mind BBC2, 9pm

Here's a bit of good news for anyone who saw school or the office primarily as a place to meet your friends and have a laugh – the most intelligent animals on the planet are also the most social. In the last in this fascinating series, Chris Packham finds out why that is by studying one of the cleverest animals of all – the dolphin. He joins them for a swim, explores their language and also sees how they can recognise themselves in the mirror, suggesting they don't all look alike after all. Chris also learns more about how elephants mourn their dead, and why just because animals are social, it doesn't mean they all get along, as chimps can be more than a little two-faced.

WEDNESDAY

Line of Duty BBC2, 9pm

Fans of this series could be forgiven for thinking it was a one-hit wonder – it's almost two years since the first run introduced viewers to straight-arrow cop Steve Arnott and his colleagues. But series writer and creator Jed Mercurio was clearly taking his time in crafting what promises to be a nail-biting follow-up. This time, Arnott and co will be

investigating DI Lindsay Denton (Keeley Hawes), who is the sole survivor of a police convoy ambushed while escorting a protected witness. Arnott immediately suspect she tipped the perpetrators off – but proving it may be difficult. Martin Compston, Vicky McClure and Adrian Dunbar are among those returning to the drama, while Call the Midwife's Jessica Raine joins the cast as a rookie detective constable.

Suspects

Channel 5, 10pm

What separates this from all the other procedural offerings out there is the fact it's shot in a fly-on-the-wall documentary style. The cast, which includes Fay Ripley (Cold Feet), Damien Molony (Ripper Street) and Clare-Hope Ashitey (Children of Men), created their own dialogue based on a detailed plot description. Set in London, each episode is a self-contained story beginning with a news report. We then follow the three detectives as they investigate the case. The series opens with the abduction of two-year-old Hope Wilkins. Her dysfunctional family are initially marked as suspects, until a convicted child killer is connected to the case.



Jim Davidson: At Least I'm Not Boring, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

The Kidnapping of Shergar Channel 5, 8pm

The mystery of Lord Lucan's disappearance in 1974, and the fate of champion racehorse Shergar have captured the public's imagination for decades. A few months after the former case was addressed in an ITV drama, we now get this equine detective story. The 1981 Derby winner was kidnapped from his home at County Kildare's Ballymany Stud in February 1983 by a masked gang. They held staff at gunpoint and Shergar was taken away in a horse trailer and never seen again. Here film-makers take to key witnesses about the theft, and paint a picture of one of the most audacious thefts in history.

FRIDAY

Student Nurses: Bedpans and Bandages ITV, 8pm

Across the country, a new generation of nurses are training up to take on the responsibility of a nation's health and well-being. It's a lot of pressure, and with ever-greater demands since the early days of the NHS, it's harder to qualify now than ever before. So this documentary will make for very interesting viewing indeed, as cameras follow trainee nurses in Birmingham and Manchester, showing the challenges they face on a daily basis as they juggle academic study with their personal life and work on the wards. In the first instalment, 24-year-old student Alistair discusses being one of a growing number of men taking up a career in nursing, while 21-year-old Helen nears the end of her three-year degree to become a children's nurse.

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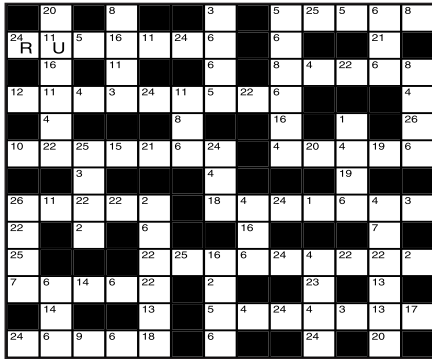
Puzzler

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No.259

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

T F E X Z D H A S U O G L
N Y B J K M R P V C I Q W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

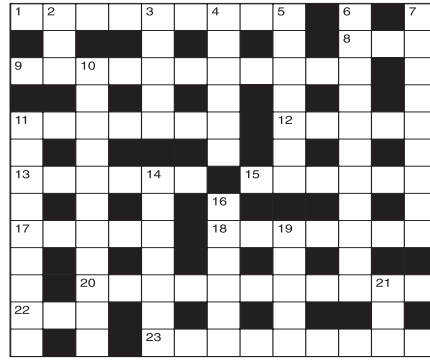
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Amend list and take down when corrected (9)
8. Some very expensive kind of whisky (3)
9. Give hand signals? (11)
11. Having arrived to stage the show (7)
12. An advance, we hear, without friendly support (5)
13. Bird noises ruin the speech (6)
15. Establish the limits of French judicial punishment (6)
17. Mishandles ear-pieces (5)
18. Unfriendly crowd before the prophet returns (7)
20. Fresh confirmation about secure policy (11)
22. Begone! I must be seen inside (3)
23. A startling revelation for one who wakes up (3-6)

Down

2. Passion shown in their exasperation (3)
3. Nearly everything I have is charged with electricity (5)
4. Mocks at relative in back-street (6)
5. Come from a wild manatee (7)
6. You'll find more point in giving fore-warning (11)
7. One who gives in easily won't manage to do this (9)
10. Did the Greeks regard it as a capital investment? (5,2,4)
11. Kind of ice slippers for beasts of burden (4-5)
14. Extract from a book in which a fool is taken in by a young attendant (7)
16. Unsullied, but almost subject to punishment (6)
19. Expose this kind of cartoon (5)
21. This hint would be about right to produce a remedy (3)



Quick Clues:

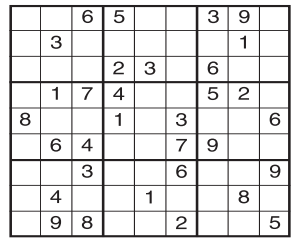
Across

1. Loss of power of action (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Cast down (11)
11. Kitchen sideboard (7)
12. Foreign (5)
13. Come back (6)
15. Ebb (6)
17. Rank (5)
18. Mean (7)
20. Bright (11)
22. In error (3)
23. Without stopping (9)

Down

2. Melody (3)
3. Water-lily (5)
4. Flight of steps (6)
5. Recover (7)
6. Thoughtful (11)
7. Deceitful (9)
10. Contingency (11)
11. Guidance (9)
14. Favour (7)
16. Wan (6)
19. Banish (5)
21. Nothing (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	1	9	18	12	13	7	1	15
5	8	3	7	9	1	4	6	2
1	7	5	2	3	8	6	9	4
9	2	4	5	7	6	1	3	5
8	3	6	1	4	9	2	5	7
2	9	8	3	1	4	5	7	6
4	5	1	6	8	7	3	2	9
3	6	7	9	5	2	8	4	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Arable; 8 Dotage; 10 Strange; 11 Solid; 12 Gait; 13 Avoid; 17 Cross; 18 Scar; 22 Edict; 23 Fortune; 24 Slaves; 25 Sparta. Down: 1 Passage; 2 Hair-pin; 3 Plane; 4 Corsair; 5 Sally; 6 Wends; 9 Leaves off; 14 Brother; 15 Acquire; 16 Arsenal; 19 Beast; 20 Vicar; 21 Crops. QUICK - Across: 7 Travel; 8 Barter; 10 Mariner; 11 Naive; 12 Note; 13 Intrig; 17 Tepid; 18 Whet; 22 Title; 23 Attempt; 24 Grieve; 25 Recent. Down: 1 Stamina; 2 Narrate; 3 Meant; 4 Painter; 5 Attic; 6 Order; 9 Principal; 14 Deceive; 15 Whimper; 16 Statute; 19 Stage; 20 Strip; 21 Strew.



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5.30pm Step	2.00pm Zumbini <small>*Termly - ask for details*</small>
6.30pm Zumba	6.30pm Metafit TM
7.40pm Top To Toe Tone	7.10pm Kick Start Fat Loss TM
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
9.45am Pilates	9.30am Zumbini <small>*Termly - ask for details*</small>
1.45pm Fitsteps	10.45pm Fitsteps
4.00pm Zumba Kids	6.30pm Metafit
6.30pm Step	7.10pm KSFL Express - <small>no exercise</small>
7.45pm Fitsteps	7.10pm KSFL Express - <small>no exercise</small>
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9.45am Fitsteps	8.45am Metafit
1.00pm Metafit	9.30am Metafit
5.45pm KSFL Express - <small>no exercise</small>	9.30am Zumba Kids Junior 3-7yrs
6.30pm Zumba	10.15am Zumba Kids 8yrs +
SUNDAY	10.15am Zumba
9.30am Zumba	

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6.30pm Zumba Holy Trinity	6.00pm HIIT High Areal School
8.10pm Zumba Haybridge Sports Centre	6.40pm Zumba High Areal School
TUESDAY	7.45pm Pilates High Areal School
5.30pm KSFL High Areal School	WEDNESDAY
6.00pm HIIT High Areal School	6.30pm Fitsteps High Areal School
6.40pm Zumba High Areal School	6.30pm Zumba High Areal School
7.45pm Pilates High Areal School	6.30pm Fitsteps Holy Trinity
WEDNESDAY	7.45pm Metafit High Areal School
6.30pm Fitsteps High Areal School	THURSDAY
6.30pm Zumba High Areal School	6.30pm Zumba Darkhouse Baptist Church
6.30pm Fitsteps Holy Trinity	6.30pm Zumba The Kingswinford School
7.45pm Metafit High Areal School	7.45pm Metafit The Kingswinford School
THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6.30pm Zumba Darkhouse Baptist Church	9.30am Metafit Jubilee Hall
6.30pm Zumba The Kingswinford School	10.15am Zumba Toning Jubilee Hall
7.45pm Metafit The Kingswinford School	SATURDAY
FRIDAY	9.30am Zumba High Areal School
9.30am Metafit Jubilee Hall	
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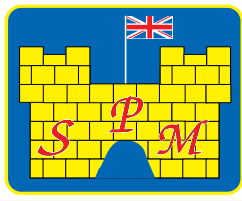
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*SOURCE: JICREG 01.10.2012

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Drivetime

Your guide to the latest motoring news and views



Qashqai a modern motoring success

Question: What connects Paddington in central London, with Cranfield in rural Buckinghamshire as well as Sunderland in the far north of England?

The answer is one of the biggest success stories in modern motoring, in the shape

of the Nissan Qashqai, a car that almost by itself started a new trend for cars which look tall and tough but are as easy to park as a hatchback and about as economical to run.

Since the first one rolled off the production line in Sunderland in 2007, more than 1,700,000 have been built.

Taking the pressure from what the pop industry calls 'that second, difficult album', the team at Nissan's European design centre in Cranfield did what all the research was telling them.

Existing Qashqai owners loved their cars but wouldn't mind a bit more style, a dash of extra technology and, please, keep a

tight rein on running costs.

So the new Qashqai looks like an entirely logical development of the first car.

Allied to upgraded petrol and diesel engines, this sharper-suited Qashqai now slips below the road tax barrier in its most frugal version, and all the rest use less fuel than before.

For the way it feels on the road we have the 1,000-strong team at Nissan's technical centre in Cranfield to thank. And what a fine job they've done.

Qashqai customers told the Nissan pollsters they didn't want a Golf GTI, thank you, but something that made them feel confident to drive.

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Drivetime



Good deals and used values set to be high

By David Banner

Suzuki has some good news this winter for customers looking to purchase a new SX4 S-Cross, the brand's all new Crossover model.

Launched in October, the SX4 S-Cross is available from £14,999 for the SZ3 1.6-litre petrol model with manual transmission and Suzuki is offering some very competitive PCP (personal contract plan) and PCH (personal contract hire) rates to help new car buyers looking for the best payment option to suit them.

Taking the SZ3 model as an example with its high standard specification of seven airbags, cruise control with speed limiter, air conditioning, 16-inch alloy wheels and daytime running lights, Suzuki is offering a low rate PCP of 4.9 per cent APR over a 43 month period until the end of this year with payments of just £189 per month.

Standard

Move up the range to the SZ4 with Dual Zone automatic air conditioning, Bluetooth connectivity, front fog lamps and rear privacy glass as standard and payments are just £10 per month extra over the same term.

Retained value is positive too as established trade publication Glass's Guide has listed an average residual value across the S-Cross range of 41 per cent after three years and 60,000 miles. Lower mileage owners can be assured of an even higher retained figure when it comes to replacing the car.

Personal Contract Hire is always a good option for Business Users and Suzuki Financial Services is offering a headline low rate plan of £179 per month for the SZ-T model over 42 months with a deposit of six monthly payments required. SZ-T is an ideal



choice as it offers an even higher standard specification including Satellite navigation, DAB radio, rear parking camera and polished 17-inch alloy wheels.

With regards to safety, SX4 S-Cross is one of the best new cars on the market after the recent NCAP tests with five stars awarded overall and strong scores of 92 per cent for Adult occupancy protection, 80 per cent for Child occupancy protection and 72 per cent for Pedestrian protection which was the highest score amongst any current competitor Crossover.

It is an ideal choice for families as it offers seating for five, luggage capacity of 430 litres and a low cost of ownership with CO2 emissions of 127g/km 1.6-litre petrol (manual transmission) and just 110g/km for the 1.6-litre DDiS model.

Real World fuel economy has been commented as 'exceptional' by several of the Automotive magazines with this week's Auto Express voting it second place in their Top Ten most efficient cars tested in 2013, the S-Cross DDiS achieved an average consumption of 59.6mpg.

The S-Cross is contributing well to the growth of the brand already at almost 1,000 sales since launch and Suzuki is currently the fastest growing top 20 car manufacturer in the UK with strong sales momentum currently 30.4 per cent up year on year. Suzuki recently passed the 30,000 unit milestone and the projection is to close 2013 at 33,000 units, an increase of 8,000 over 2012.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 324 - 88g/km. All offers subject to stock availability and terms & conditions. Licensed credit brokers, terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to age and status, guarantees and indemnities may be required. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. www.vauxhall.co.uk/finance

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Fuel consumption figures for CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2), Combined 39.2 (7.2). CO₂ emissions: 168g/km; for Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO₂ emissions: 129g/km; for Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 53.3 (5.3). CO₂ emissions: 123g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models Shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 On The Road; Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £16,995 On The Road; Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £269 per month example shown based on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 total cash price including 5 year care package at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,556.64 (19%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,854.53, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £209 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,495 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,812.69 (22%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £6,158.38, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. New retail Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. The advertised saving of £1,200 (including VAT) discount to the OTR price for the Jazz 1.2 S applied to the retail invoice. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £140 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.2 S in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995. Total cash price including 5 Year Care Package (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £1,795.20 (16%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £4,159.72, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 9DQ. The 5 Year Care Package includes: **Service:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary HondaCare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,545 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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Specialists continue on page 36

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NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council, on
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junction with Vicarage Drive and a point approximately outside property
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or unless the vehicle requires access to premises on the length of road or
is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Pedestrian
access will be maintained.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via High Street,
Enville Road, Hyde Lane, A458 Bridgnorth Road, A449 Kidderminster
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THE ORDER WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON 11 FEBRUARY 2014 AT
APPROXIMATELY 9AM, AND THE SAID WORKS WILL COMMENCE ON
OR AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO THAT DATE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT
THE WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED BY 5PM ON 12 FEBRUARY 2014.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the
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SPORT

Legend of snooker Davis to visit city

ONE of snooker's true legends will be giving players in Wolverhampton the chance to be champions.

Steve Davis, who won the World Championships six times in the 1980s, will take a break from his TV commitments to visit the city next month to run a tournament featuring 64 students from Highfields School in Penn.

The students, who are all aged between 11 and 16, will battle it out over 15-minute single frame contests with the eventual winner crowned champion.

Davis, aged 56, who put down his cue to appear on I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! last year, will then play a special exhibition match against the victorious student.

The school's new sports hall will be converted into a mini-version of The Crucible for the tournament on March 4, with one full size table surrounded by 10 six feet tables.

Tim Rowley, PE teacher at Highfields said excitement was building amongst the students ahead of the arrival of The Sultan of

Teamwork brings Blox the result

Kingswinford 0 Bloxwich Men's 1st XI 8
BLOXWICH followed up last week's excellent result with another superb team display in which they obliterated an off-the-pace Kingswinford team.

Bloxwich started very capably and spent the first 10 minutes nervously defending against a strong and well-drilled Kingswinford attack.

Jamie Bayliss made some world class saves to keep Bloxwich in the game. From then on in, Bloxwich managed to use their speedy attack to great effect with Adam Baldwin opening the scoring. The goals kept on coming for Bloxwich with them sitting comfortably on a 3-0 lead at half time despite not playing their best hockey. In the second half Bloxwich started to play with a lot more fluidity with Adam Baldwin scoring three more to make it four for the game. Dan Mazurek got one as did Eddie Marrocco and Gary Williams two.

Hope of a win is snuffed out for DK

Dudley Kingswinford 5 Bromsgrove 41

THIS was a game that DK targeted as a possible first win of the season, but limped out in the end well beaten by Bromsgrove, who were the better of two poor teams on the day.

For the home side, flankers Danny Hawkins and Peter Knight worked tirelessly throughout, ably supported by back row colleague Jon Tideswell.

Second row Ed Parry and Nick Murphy put in a full shift, ably supported by hooker Matt Humphreys whose strong runs took

a lot of stopping. DK opened strongly and playing with the strong wind behind them put pressure on the visitors but lacked that vital cutting edge to finish off their mounting attacks.

Agonisingly

All they had to show for their efforts was a penalty attempt some 30 metres out, but fly half Kieran Pinches pulled his kick agonisingly wide of the post.

This appeared to take some of the impetus away and Bromsgrove soon capitalized with two quick tries, first by fly half Aaron Hig-

Rugby

gins and then flanker David Hughes, the latter being converted by Higgins. DK's cause was not helped when influential lock Nick Murphy was sin binned for repeated infringements at the breakdown after 20 minutes, but somehow they denied the visitors any further scoring opportunities when down to 14 men.

Murphy returned to the fray, and this sparked DK into action and after some sustained pressure on the visitors' line, prop Dan

Shakespeare forced his way over in the corner for DK's only score of the game. Pinches conversion attempt came up short of the mark.

Storming

Bromsgrove came storming back and were rewarded with another try scored by their impressive No.8, Solomon Dacres, with Higgins narrowly missing the conversion.

The second half continued in the same vein with DK still attempting to play their expansive game but just lacking the finishing touches. Bromsgrove took full ad-

vantage and were rewarded with four further tries scored by hooker George Glenn, David Hughes bagging a second, a harsh penalty try, and finally wing Sam Bostock for the final play of the match.

Higgins added the conversions to two of them.

There is no shortage of spirit in the DK team but realistically it is difficult to see where their first win of the season will come from now.

However, one thing is true they will keep fighting to the end.

This week the team travel to Harrogate - Kick off 2 pm

Foster in staggering effort over tough run

DUDLEY Kingswinford athlete Ben Foster claimed his second victory in a month, taking first place in Sunday's Stourbridge Stagger.

Flying Foster made light of the 10-mile course over muddy tracks, fields and country lanes.

Many Stagger diehards stated afterwards it was the worst conditions they had experienced, the course feeling more like 15 miles in the conditions.

Foster's victory was a tight one, his winning time of 1.07.29 some seven seconds ahead of runner-up Halesowen AC's Tom Kenderdine who finished in 1.07.36 and Stuart Hawkes of Amazing Feet who claimed third place in 1.08.00. There were also age group prizes for DK's Helen Tromans who claimed 1st FV40 and Carol Fisher who bagged the 1st FV50 prize.

As expected for a race so close to home turf DK's blue hoops were out in force with 16 athletes making up the 400 plus field. Rob Meredith was second DK runner home taking 10th place in 1.11.03 despite taking a fall. He was joined by Paul Richards and Club Chairman Mick Quane.

Weather chaos for matches

WITH last Saturday's game against Gornal Athletic falling victim to yet another postponement due to the waterlogged state of the pitch, Wood, who haven't played a game since the 6-1 demolition of Heather St John on December 28 now face the prospect of a game every Saturday and Tuesday/Wednesday until the end of the season on April 26.

The long lay off has had a silver lining, giving injured players the chance of getting fit.

Drew Aiton made a cameo appearance against Continental Star on Boxing Day, scoring the winner, Craig Deakin should be over his leg injury and assistant manager Jay Hawkins should be back in the frame, add to this new signings Louis Harris and Kieron Clarke and there is going to be a real scramble for places in the last three months.

Saxons deny Tigers to earn the victory

Sedgley Park 3 Stourbridge Saxons 45

SEDGLEY Park came into this game having turned over leaders Macclesfield three weeks ago but in need of a win to retain any semblance of momentum in their faltering campaign.

With nothing less than a win also essential for Neil Mitchell's charges the game had long been identified as season-defining for the Saxons' own promotion aspirations.

The visitors kicked off into a stiff breeze, taking an early scrum against the head and forcing the hosts back with direct drives from Nigel Mukarati and Ben Hughes.

Flanker Eji Uzoigwe secured the first try from the tail of a lineout catch and drive.

A missed touch by the hosts gifted possession back, the Saxons gratefully countering for prop Mark George to force his way over.

A Saxons midfield drive set up a goal line siege that was only kept out illegally, a short range scrum option seeing Uzoigwe crash over again.

Another fine Hurrell catch set up the bonus point 4th try as hooker Scott Wright was driven over.

Centre Riley hit a monster 55 metre penalty goal which finally put the hosts on the scoreboard.

Hughes was replaced by Drew Harper, Chris Depper moving up from No.8 to second row. In the second half Nathan Bressington

Rugby

chipped the advancing defenders and won the foot-race to score after gathering the bouncing ball.

Fellow winger Jamie Hearn attempting a chip and chase of his own but was thwarted by an illegal block that earned home fullback Wainwright a sin binning. Harper gathered the ball at the base of a ruck and demonstrated great strength to power through the fringe defences.

The hosts recovered possession from the restart and finally strung a set of phases together as the rain started to lash down. A set of drives were held out by an uncompromising Saxons' defence that was now content to sit on the lead, kicking possession downward and inviting the hosts to run at them and force passes in deteriorating conditions.

A steady flow of penalties ensued and were kicked deep to pin the hosts back.

The hosts failed to clear their lines though and conceded a penalty try as an advancing scrum was dragged down.



Replacement Drew Harper powers through the Sedgley defence to score. Photograph Tim Abram

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Saxon haul

Tigers tamed by big score

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Villa up for sale rumour refuted

ASTON Villa rejected claims they have been put up for sale.

The club and blues have rubbished reports they are on the market and chairman Randy Lerner wants to sell.

Lerner bought Villa for £62.6m in 2006 and was reportedly looking for £200m to get a return on his investment, including transfer fees and upgrades to Villa Park and Bodymoor Heath.

But Villa have distanced themselves and insisted Lerner is not looking to leave.

Chief executive Paul Faulkner said: "I can categorically confirm Aston Villa Football Club has absolutely not been put up for sale and that Randy Lerner is not actively looking to sell the club."

The speculation came after Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Everton as Villa conceded twice in the last 16 minutes to lose at Goodison Park.

Kevin Mirallas' late winner won it for the Toffees after Steven Naismith cancelled out Leandro Bacuna's first-half opener.

Boss Paul Lambert said: "Since the turn of the year we've been in pretty good form."

"I think tiredness crept in and it's a wonder goal which has settled it."

"I thought we were comfortable in the game and in the first half we never looked under threat at all."

Jones is out of the fight

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Wayne Jones was put out in the third round by title winner Gary Anderson in the weekend's PDC German Darts Championship.

"The Wanderer" bowed out after putting up a fight against the on-fire "Flying Scotsman," who hit a 161 finish to set up his victory on Sunday afternoon.

The pair shared the opening four legs before Anderson made his move, taking the fifth with the aid of a 180 before defying a maximum reply from Jones.

Anderson broke Jones' though in the next for a 4-2 lead but the Wednesfield darter broke back, punishing two missed darts at tops from the Scot.

Jones hit another 180 as he levelled, but Anderson found another gear with 161 for a 12-darter to move 5-4 up and then finishing the next leg in 14 to win.

Rosenberg heads out as contract is cancelled

STRIKER Markus Rosenberg has rejoined Malmo on a three-year contract after Albion cancelled his contract.

The Sweden international ended his unhappy 18-month stint at The Hawthorns after agreeing a settlement on the final year and a half of his Baggies deal.

He confirmed on Monday night he had linked up with Malmo after flying to Florida to join the Swedish club's pre-season training camp.

The 31-year-old, who failed to score a senior goal in 33 appearances for Albion, spent four years at Malmo at the start of his career before leaving his hometown club in

Football

2005. He played for Ajax, Racing Santander and Werder Bremen before joining the Baggies on a free transfer.

Rosenberg confirmed his departure on Twitter and added: "Good luck for the rest of the season. Boing Boing."

Meanwhile, straight-talking keeper Ben Foster today warned Albion: "We're not too good to go down".

The Baggies' No.1 insists former glories will count for nothing as Pepe Mel's side look to avoid the drop from the Premier

League. Albion have finished 11th, 10th and eighth in the last three Premier League seasons but find themselves just a point above the relegation zone with 14 games remaining.

Foster said: "A lot of people say to me from the outside that we are too good to get relegated. But that doesn't mean anything. We've got to get on with it ourselves."

"They say over 38 games that if you are relegated then you deserve to be. It's all in our hands but we have to crack on and get the points."

The Baggies picked up a useful draw at home to Liverpool on Sunday but they head

for fellow strugglers Crystal Palace on Saturday still in trouble after wins for survival rivals Cardiff, West Ham and Sunderland.

Foster said: "I was watching at home and it was incredible. All of the teams at the bottom were winning, which was typical. But you can't look to anyone else, you've just got to look at yourselves. We're in the dogfight and we have to concentrate on ourselves."

"We'll take confidence from the performance in the second-half on Sunday and take it into the weekend." New boss Pepe Mel has made an encouraging start to his reign despite a derby defeat to Villa.

Pearce aims for masters

STEVEN PEARCE is ready to become the 'Master of Masters' by adding the British Masters Welterweight crown to the International Masters strap he picked up in his last outing.

The former Midlands Area Champion goes in search of the British Masters crown on EJKO Promotions bill - March Mayhem - at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday, March 1.

The 28 year-old takes on Sheffield's Ryan Hardy and is determined to add another belt to his boxing CV.

"I'm at that stage of my boxing career where I want to be fighting for titles," he told www.uko-boxing.com. "It gives me the motivation to keep training and working hard."

"I've held the Midlands Area crown and now I've got the International Masters title after beating Rob Hunt in my last fight. I want to add the British Masters title to my list and keep pushing forward."

Tickets for March Mayhem, priced at £30 and £60 Ringside, are available from Walsall Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900. Pearce versus Hardy tops the bill of a bumper 11-fight card.

Hause-ing first team ambition

AMBITIOUS new boy Kortney Hause says he aims of making the Wolves first-team this season.

The 18-year-old left-sided centre-back was a surprise addition late on transfer deadline day when he arrived from Wycombe on a two-and-a-half-year contract. Hause, who has played 31 games for the League Two side.

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GLASSBOYS GET HIGH FIVE IN WIN

Weymouth 0 Stourbridge 5

THE Glassboys completed an emphatic league double over Weymouth for the second season running.

Having defeated the Dorset outfit 7-0 back in November at the War Memorial Athletic Ground, a Stourbridge side shorn of the suspended Will Richards and Luke Benbow might

have expected a stiff test in the return clash.

However, a fine all round team effort saw Gary Hackett's men enjoy another convincing win over the Terras.

Stourbridge included new signing Ben Birch, a young defender recruited from Redditch United, for his debut at the Bob Lucas Stadium.

After six minutes Stourbridge forged in-front when Drew Canavan shot home a loose ball.

Stourbridge then doubled their lead when Sean Geddes turned the ball into an empty net.

Tucked

Stourbridge maintained the upper-hand after the break. In the 56th minute Stourbridge stretched their lead further when Billingham slipped a pass into the run of Geddes who tucked the ball away inside the far post with a first-time low finish from 12 yards to take his goals tally this season to 21.

Weymouth replied with Ben Joyce playing the ball wide to Luke Burbridge on the right and he drove towards the by-line before pulling a ball back for Joyce to hit a shot that was too

Football

close to Coleman and then on 63 minutes Burbridge laid on another chance for Joyce, but he didn't catch his shot cleanly and Birch cleared the ball.

There was some controversy surrounding the visitors fourth goal after 70 minutes with Haynes playing the ball forward and Berwick getting a flick to put Billingham through, but although his left arm was tucked back by Michael Walker, he managed to stay on his feet and get away a decent shot that Matthews parried, however the referee pulled play back and awarded a free-kick before showing a red card to the Weymouth defender who had had a torrid afternoon.

To rub salt into the wounds Billingham buried the 20-yard free-kick past the diving Matthews - a reward for his outstanding contribution to the victory. Four minutes from time sub Jordan Fitzpatrick added a fifth when he fed the ball into the feet of Billingham and continued his run inside to take a neat return pass and strike a sweet 20-yard drive beyond the diving Matthews to round off a satisfying afternoon for the visitors.

DK is now staring relegation in the face



Nick Murphy picks up the ball and drives forward for Dudley Kingswinford in the match against Bromsgrove which they eventually lost 41-5. Match report inside.

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